

Mrs Thatcher's call to EEC for £1,000m cut opposed at summit

Mrs Thatcher said at the Dublin summit yesterday that although she did not want to create a crisis in the EEC she wanted radical action to reduce Britain's contributions to the

budget. She asked for a total relief of about £1,000m next year but other Community leaders made it clear that this was far beyond what they were ready to accept.

Germans criticize oil price rise

From Michael Horusby and Peter Norman
Dublin, Nov 29

The last thing Britain wants is to create a crisis in the European Community Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the leaders of the other EEC states in Dublin today.

Any speaking at the opening session of the two-day summit, she emphasized that Britain was still seeking a broad balance between its contributions to and its receipts from the Community budget.

Mrs Thatcher said that Britain was in a unique position in having a below-average income per head in the EEC and having to make by far the largest net contribution. This situation, she added, was inequitable and a solution had to be found.

Reporting on Mrs Thatcher's opening remarks to the summit, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said that she had emphasized that Britain was now a wholly dedicated member of the EEC. She had underlined that Britain did not want to make a crisis in Europe when there was so much trouble elsewhere in the world.

At the same time, she urged her fellow heads of government to be in no doubt about the political problem caused in Britain by a massive net contribution, that under present circumstances is expected to grow to more than £1,000m next year.

Any other country in the same position would be putting its case with the same force and conviction as Britain and expecting the same response from its partners, she declared.

Mrs Thatcher said she wanted radical action to reduce British contributions to the budget and to increase what Britain receives.

The Prime Minister told her colleagues that Britain's receipts per head from the budget were only half the Community average. If British receipts were raised to somewhere near the average, Britain's expected net contribution to the EEC budget next year of more than £1,000m would be cut by about £650m.

If, in addition, the EEC agreed to remove restraints, built into the existing mechanism for reimbursing countries for an unfairly large gross contribution, then Britain could expect further relief of about £330m in 1980. That would roughly meet Britain's objective of a "broad balance" on its budget accounts.

Other EEC leaders, however, made it clear that this is far beyond what they are ready to accept. They fear that such a radical change could set dangerous precedents when the Community is about to expand to include three much poorer countries—Greece, Portugal and Spain.

The furthest the rest of the EEC appeared willing to go was to offer the £350m arising out of adjustment to the existing mechanism, coupled with some further increases in EEC spending.



Mrs Thatcher in Dublin with Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister (centre) and Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the EEC Community.

ing in Britain on the coal industry, transport infrastructure, and farm modernization.

Mrs Thatcher said that while she favoured reducing agricultural expenditure, which now consumes 75 per cent of the budget, and a shift to other types of spending, this had to be done without increasing the overall size of the budget.

In any case, the Prime Minister said, any reform of the common agricultural policy would only produce results

gradually and was not a solution to Britain's immediate problem.

British officials reacted indignantly to German accusations that Britain was deliberately pushing up its North Sea oil prices in line with those set by the more militant Opec producers such as Libya, Nigeria and Algeria.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, believes that British price rises legitimize oil-price decisions taken by the Opec cartel and weaken the position of the Western industrial world in its efforts to encourage price restraint.

It is claimed by the Germans that at the start of this year, when oil was scarce, Britain was among the first to raise its prices and that in January, North Sea oil was one dollar a barrel dearer than similar oil from Libya.

Britain contends that it has no legal control over oil prices, that it has always followed, and never led, the market for equivalent types of crude, and that in any case North Sea output is too small to have a stabilizing effect on world prices.

British officials reacted with indignation to the German accusations, which they said would be "entirely counterproductive". If it was thought that by such means Britain's determination to get satisfaction on its budget demands would in any way be lessened.

Before today's meeting opened, British sources said that unless Mrs Thatcher was offered "money on the table" in substantial quantity, "life could become very difficult" for the Community.

They refused, however, to spell out what this veiled threat of retaliation might mean in practice.

Stricter security precautions were in force today as Mrs Thatcher drove into Dublin Castle for the two-day summit. A small group of demonstrators protesting against conditions in Long Kesh prison, near Belfast.

governors EEC farm production was approaching a breakdown.

Ministers held urgent meetings yesterday after complaints from food traders that EEC authorities were defaulting on payments due under the common agricultural policy. It was the first visible sign in Britain of the approaching bankruptcy of the Community about which the European Commission has given warnings.

A brief statement by the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, the section of the civil service which administers EEC farm policy in Britain, said: "Problems are arising. Steps to secure adequate funds are being considered urgently."

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Opposition threatens to hold up business

By George Clark

Obstruction of all government business in the Commons was threatened yesterday by Mr Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, after ministers had confirmed that the Cabinet had decided to begin the passage of the controversial Local Government Bill in the House of Lords.

While Labour MPs were protesting in the Commons, the Government moved the first reading of the Bill in the House of Lords, so it achieved a *fait accompli*.

Peers came over to the Commons to witness the confirmation later between Mr Callaghan and Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Mr St John-Stevas confirmed that the Cabinet had decided to begin the passage of the parliamentary convention which decrees that money Bills—that is, Bills about the allocation of funds from the Exchequer—come first to the House of Commons and have decided that that Bill did not come within that category.

That is manifestly open to serious challenge, and Mr Callaghan and his advisers will study the terms of the Bill closely when it is published on Tuesday.

It will obviously affect the amount provided from central government funds by way of rate support grants this year amounting to 61 per cent of local authority expenditure, which comes to £3,996m. The whole basis of reckoning the grants is to be changed.

At present, through a complicated formula, generally speaking, the local authorities which spend the most attract the highest amount of central government grant, irrespective of need. A new block grant system is to be introduced which will concentrate on the "need" element.

Labour MPs suspect that the Bill will take away the power of the Minister of Local Government to "punish" local authorities which are high spenders or extravagant, by reducing the amount of grant according to the degree by which he thinks they are over-spending. That, according to the Opposition would take away the autonomy of local authorities.

The Government is, in effect, imposing a central system on local authorities. Ministers say that, within the total allocated, the authorities would have freedom to allocate the resources as they choose.

The Bill would also allow government supervision of local spending and abolish the Community Land Act. Councils would be compelled to provide more information to ratepayers about the use made of resources.

Overseas' late, page 2

Patriotic Front close to accepting ceasefire proposals

By David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Rhodesia constitutional conference stands on the brink of a spectacular success today, with a good expectation that the Patriotic Front delegation is now close to accepting a ceasefire.

Lord Carrington, the conference chairman, is visiting post-haste from the European summit in Dublin this afternoon, in order to hear Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe's response to the newly revised British ceasefire plan. It was clear when they met for a short private talk at the Foreign Office yesterday, before Lord Carrington's departure, that the guerrilla leaders' main anxieties about the British proposals have to a large extent been allayed by the latest round of negotiations. Their one remaining doubt concerns the terms for the assembly of their forces after their return to Rhodesia.

The Salisbury delegation accepted the British plan earlier this week. Barring a "last-minute upset, always possible in a negotiation as difficult and emotional as this one has been, it looks as if the ceasefire will be accepted by both sides."

If so, the conference will move immediately into two or three days' intensive work on the implementation of the ceasefire with the military commanders of each side—General Walls for the Rhodesian régime and General Tongogara for the Patriotic Front—hammering out the details face to face.

Finally, if all goes well, there is likely to be a formal ceremony of some kind. Leaders of the two sides would sign the overall constitutional settlement, which Lord Carrington has negotiated this past 11 weeks. Bishop Munzuru, the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Prime Minister, is expected to return from Salisbury for this momentous occasion.

though the British side is not counting on success until the ink is dry, preparations are going ahead in Whitehall for the administration of the ceasefire so that it can take effect as quickly as possible. The name of the British Governor is likely to be announced shortly.

Arrangements are well in hand for British "field supervisors" to go to Rhodesia early next week to prepare the ground for the elections. A small advance party of military advisers is already there, making early provision for ceasefire arrangements.

The timing envisaged under the British plan is seven days between the ceasefire being declared and its coming into effect, followed by two months for the election campaign. The only gap still to be agreed is the time between the end of the conference and the announcement of the ceasefire which is not expected to be more than two or three days.

Despite the feeling in conference circles that agreement is very close, Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe were quite reserved after meeting Lord Carrington. Mr Mugabe spoke of "one or two sticky points" and Mr Nkomo insisted that the Rhodesian forces "must not be in an operational position."

Mr Mugabe added that they must remain in barracks "otherwise the Patriotic Front is being asked to move their forces into death camps."

The purpose of yesterday's meeting was for Lord Carrington to explain, in a more informal atmosphere than that of the full conference, that the British proposals had been expanded and clarified just about as far as it was possible to go to take account of their concerns.

With the Salisbury delegation having accepted the British plan, there is obviously little room for further manoeuvre without risking what has been achieved already.

The main effect of the detailed discussions with the Patriotic Front this week has been to spell out what reciprocal disarmament means in the ceasefire, so that the Patriotic Front could feel confident that their own forces would not be at a disadvantage but have the same standing as those of the régime.

The price of becoming an amateur again

By a Staff Reporter

Dwight Stones, an American athlete, has recovered his amateur status. Behind that bare statement lies the strange story of an athletics club bearing the exotic title of Desert Oasis Track Club and boasting one member: Dwight Stones.

A high jumper of vaulting ambition in all senses, Stones thought he had discovered a means of capitalizing on his prowess without losing the chance to compete in top-class athletics, including the Olympic Games.

He won bronze medals in the 1972 and 1976 Olympics and once held the world high jump record at 7ft 7in, which is only half an inch below the present world's best. He was, in American terms, a top property and took legal advice on how to convert his talent into gold. In 1977 he appeared in *Superstars*, a competition designed for teenagers, and his prize of \$33,000 (about £15,000) found its way into the Desert Oasis Track Club.

The United States Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) did not accept the legality of his enterprise and suspended him. Stones threatened them with court action. The AAU has agreed to reinstate him on the understanding, principally, that the money would be passed to them.

He has also undertaken to withdraw his actions to "make a public statement that he would work with the AAU and to make a public apology for any embarrassing remarks he made against the AAU".

Stones said that poor advice from a former counsel had helped to get him into trouble. He must now be cleared by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to be eligible for the Olympics.

It is one of the paradoxes of high jumping that it attracts big crowds, and therefore big money, to achieve meetings, but the high jumper himself is deprived of forming a legitimate and viable professional organization. Here, surely, is scope for Kerry Packer.

Local Labour Party cuts national ties over left-right power clash

From Our Correspondent

Labour party supporters in a constituency in Cornwall which was once socialist but which is held by a Conservative MP, yesterday announced they were no longer affiliated to the national party.

The decision has caused concern at the party's national headquarters where it is feared the action could prompt similar decisions.

The Falmouth and Camborne divisional party, which is the party for its general election seat, also criticized the move.

It also criticized the move who stood in May. "We had in this constituency during the general election, a parliamentary candidate, expressed in the press and at public meetings many of the left-wing views which we heard at this year's conference."

"There was an 11 per cent swing against him in the election and the lowest Labour vote in Falmouth and Camborne was 18,500."

In its decision to disaffiliate from the national party the Falmouth and Camborne Labour Party attacked the intransigence which it said had been shown at the Brighton to Mr Frank Clegg, secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, and Plumbing Union, and other moderate supporters.

It blamed the "growing power of the national tendency" in the party for its general election defeat.

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More jobs to go as British Steel losses mount

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

British Steel Corporation yesterday unveiled a loss of £145.6m for the first half of the year. The Government's target of BSC to break even by the end of this financial year has been abandoned.

Losses in the second half will be even larger. The state steel corporation now plans urgent cuts with trade unions on other plant closures or partial closures and the loss of thousands of jobs.

The BSC said that collapse in demand for steel had come earlier than it had expected.

Its present capacity is around 2.6 million tonnes, compared with an expected demand of only 1.75 million tonnes. Even with the closing of iron and steelmaking at Shotton, North Wales, and Corby, Northamptonshire, the corporation's surplus capacity will still be about 2 million tonnes.

It is the reduction of that surplus and the pressure to meet the financial target as soon as possible that will be at the centre of talks with steel industry unions.

Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman, said yesterday he had not expected an economic recession of such magnitude.

"We are now faced with a very steep and very serious decline equivalent to 1 million tonnes over the next six months," he said.

Amid the gloom and despondency the only bright spots were the continued profitability of its Sheffield steelworks and BSC's maintenance of a 54 per cent share of the home market.

The slump in demand created unprecedented stresses for management, workers and unions, Sir Charles said. But he gave a warning: "Any industrial action gravely weakens the BSC at this moment. The business of BSC is at risk, the jobs are at risk, taxpayers' money is at risk and the longer the delay in adaptation the greater the risk for all of us."

Shotton and Corby lost £16.5m in the first half of the year. Plants on Teesside and in Scotland recorded losses of £30.1m, although the hope is that they can make profits provided new orders can be found.

The corporation emphasized rising energy and transport costs could not be passed on to customers. Of the 10 major reporting centres, nine recorded decreased losses, five showed increases in losses and in one (Sheffield) the profit was cut.

Continued on page 21 col 7

Mr Murray loomy on unions Bill

'C leaders were gloomy last night after failing to persuade Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, to drop the Bill for trade union reforms. Mr Len Murray, TUC chairman, said he was pressed by these dispirited indications of detail but did not indicate what they might be.

Bread prices rise

Bread and egg prices will rise next week. A large, white, sliced loaf will increase 2 1/2p to 34p and a small loaf by 1 1/2p. Some sizes of eggs will increase for the second time this month by as much as 10p a dozen. Bakers blame the rise on higher fuel and packaging costs.

Reporter sentenced

Mr Salamat Ali, the Pakistan correspondent of the Hongkong *Far Eastern Economic Review*, was sentenced to a year's hard labour by a major presiding over a military court. As his sentence began, his editor appealed to President Zia ul-Haq for clemency.

Chile coup victims

A Catholic church organization in Chile has uncovered the remains of 21 people secretly buried in a cemetery by police in 1973. The church authorities proved that the corpses were identical with 21 people arrested locally during the military coup and missing ever since. There have been further finds of crushed and mutilated bodies. The church investigators have now ascertained the fate of 669 out of 2,000 missing persons in Chile.

Home Secretary finds a new British director ending the American genre of the "road film"

David Robinson finds a new British director ending the American genre of the "road film": *Jerry the Warden on Uncle Venya*, at Hampstead.

Football: Brady to leave Arsenal for Europe at end of season

Rugby League: John Player Cup final postponed because of television dispute. Tennis: Rex Bellamy meets Sylvia Hanika, a star of the future.

Simpson

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Butter is made today by much the same natural method as it was made thousands of years ago. Simply by taking pure dairy cream and churning it until it turns into butter.

This natural method means that there are many kinds of butter from different parts of the world for you to choose from.

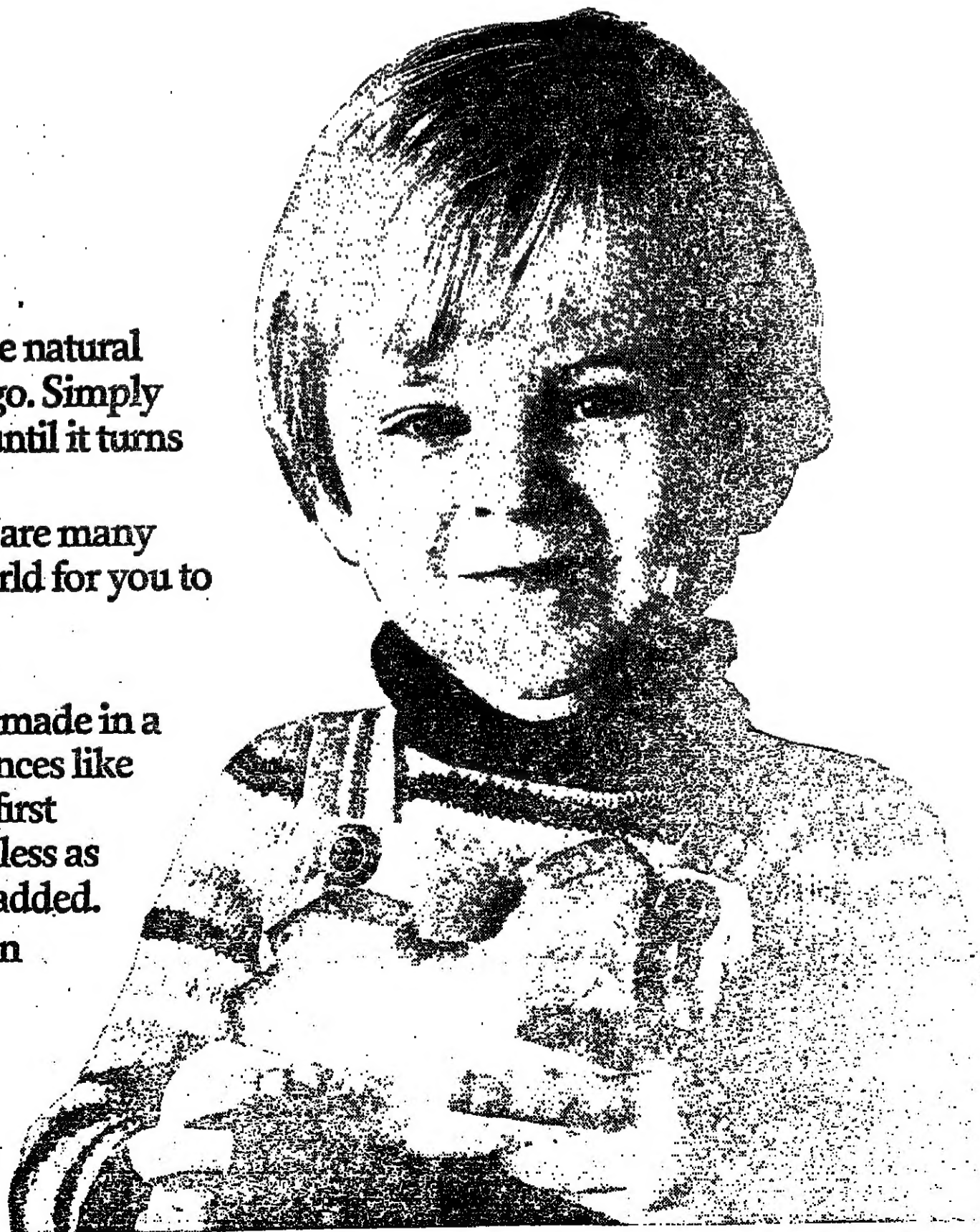
But butter always tastes like butter.

Margarine tastes different because it is made in a different way. Basically it's made from substances like vegetable oils, fish oils and tallow. These are first refined and deodorised until they are as tasteless as possible. Then flavourings, vitamins etc. are added.

The result tastes as good as any modern synthetic product can.

But it's not butter. And it doesn't taste like butter. Does it?

Sorry Marge.



Only butter tastes like butter

PARLIAMENT, November 29, 1979

Britain pays £1,522m as share of cost of CAP

House of Commons

Britain's contribution to the common agricultural policy, which will be £1,522m next year, was attacked by both Labour and Conservative MPs. But Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said Mrs. Thatcher had been "much more robust" on this matter than Mr. Callaghan.

Mr. Walker told Mr. Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab.)—the latest Community budget is for 1980. The estimated cost of the Common Agricultural Policy in that year is £1,522m. These estimates, related to the Community arrangements as they stand, are subject to change, he said, but he was not aware of any future decisions on agricultural prices and other matters.

Mr. Straw—in view of the astronomical size of the budget and the contribution by the United Kingdom, did the Government vote against the proposal to cut £150m from subsidies to milk producers? Mr. Walker (Worcester, C.)—The Government considered the correct method to deal with these matters in the Council of Ministers. Last year, we had a discussion on the milk prices and contributions to milk.

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton, C.)—Those figures are deplorable and unacceptable to the British. We have Mrs. Thatcher's just request in Dublin will be met by the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Walker pointed out later that the last Labour government found that an alteration in the CAP was not a speedy procedure. Mrs. Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab.)—The only way to get any satisfaction in any fundamental renegotiation of the CAP will be to say we will pay no more than the EEC funds until we achieve that.

Mr. Walker—This Prime Minister has been much more robust on this issue than any previous Prime Minister. We have been criticised from a party whose government did virtually nothing when the CAP rose from £1,600m to £1,700m.

Mr. Roy Mason (Chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Barnes, Lab.)—One recognizes that the Prime Minister is making a courageous attempt to rectify the imbalance. But what proposals has he to renegotiate the CAP so we get a better deal?

Mr. Walker—Our predecessors agreed to price increases in every price fixing on those items in surplus. We froze prices.

EEC sugar plans not acceptable to UK

The Government's determination to stand up for the interest of British sugar-beet growers in the EEC was indicated in a statement by Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr. Eric Cockerham (Ludlow, C.) asked whether the Government was satisfied with the projected A and B quotas for sugar beet for 1980-81 for the United Kingdom.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith (North Angus and Mearns, C.)—No. The proposals have not been tabled by the EEC Commission. However, it is clear that the proposals might be indicative of discrimination against the United Kingdom and in such a form they would be unacceptable.

Mr. Cockerham—Since the United Kingdom does not contribute to the surplus and did not use its full A quota, we should not be penalized because of the surpluses produced by France and West Germany.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—That is precisely the point which concerns us. The years of production on which they might base our quotas are years in which because of the weather, production in Britain was much lower.

Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, Lab.)—Is it a quota for Britain could be met? Farmers are reluctant to take up their full allocation unless they get a chance to get a B quota.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—Mr. Freud is right. Getting a fair share of the A quota is vital to our industry.

Mr. Ralph Howell (North Norfolk, C.)—This industry is important in Norfolk and there will be much resentment if there is an unfair cutback in the quota in this country.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—Yes. There is some criticism that our industry is less efficient than that in other countries. That falls to the account of the fact that when you relate input and output, we have an efficient industry.

Mr. Roy Mason, Chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, fisheries and food (Barnes, Lab.)—Much will depend on the advice the minister is receiving about world trends of sugar surplus or deficit. As the British Sugar Corporation suggests that there may be a sugar deficit in due course, is that the advice he is receiving?

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—We are making advice from a number of quarters. As Mr. Mason thought a lot of advice was conflicting, on both sides, we shall come to a decision on the best consideration of that advice.

Isle of Man to change its customs after more than 200 years

House of Lords

The Isle of Man Bill, which will enable the island to run its own customs and excise service, was given an unopposed second reading.

Conference of main political parties in N Ireland still best way to proceed

House of Commons

It was right to propose arrangements for a conference of main political parties in Northern Ireland and before doing so to seek the highest level of agreement among the political parties who would be operating under the arrangements as to what they should be.

Mr. Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Spelthorne, C.) said in opening a debate on the working paper for a conference on the government of Northern Ireland.

He said that since the suspension of the Stormont Parliament in 1972, Northern Ireland had been governed, except for a short period in 1974, by direct rule from Westminster. Successive governments and the State and the civil servants in the department responsible had done their best to give Northern Ireland an efficient and impartial administration and to make it sensitive to the needs of the province. He believed that this had been done with some success and that direct rule had a fair record of accountability.

But because direct rule in Northern Ireland had a limited range of functions, far less than their counterparts in Great Britain, it meant that Northern Ireland ministers, and therefore Parliament, were burdened with too great a range of what were essentially local matters.

The present system gave too little opportunity for the normal healthy development of political parties to involve themselves in the administration of their affairs. This was as strong as the case for a conference of main political parties, perhaps stronger. It was only right to seek to provide a proper democratic channel for its exercise.

All the parties were on record as wanting a transfer of power to elected representatives in Northern Ireland. There was a need to search for something which, while perhaps not regarded by anyone as the millennium, would be regarded by enough people in all parts of the community as a step forward, something that they could live with and work for the time being.

Mr. Walker—The Government considered the correct method to deal with these matters in the Council of Ministers. Last year, we had a discussion on the milk prices and contributions to milk.

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Government insists Bill starts in Lords

House of Commons

Mr. James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Norman St John-Stevas, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said that the Bill, which would transfer the Government of Northern Ireland to a conference of main political parties, should be introduced in the House of Lords.

House of Commons

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Mr. Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Spelthorne, C.) said in opening a debate on the working paper for a conference on the government of Northern Ireland.

He said that since the suspension of the Stormont Parliament in 1972, Northern Ireland had been governed, except for a short period in 1974, by direct rule from Westminster. Successive governments and the State and the civil servants in the department responsible had done their best to give Northern Ireland an efficient and impartial administration and to make it sensitive to the needs of the province. He believed that this had been done with some success and that direct rule had a fair record of accountability.

But because direct rule in Northern Ireland had a limited range of functions, far less than their counterparts in Great Britain, it meant that Northern Ireland ministers, and therefore Parliament, were burdened with too great a range of what were essentially local matters.

The present system gave too little opportunity for the normal healthy development of political parties to involve themselves in the administration of their affairs. This was as strong as the case for a conference of main political parties, perhaps stronger. It was only right to seek to provide a proper democratic channel for its exercise.

All the parties were on record as wanting a transfer of power to elected representatives in Northern Ireland. There was a need to search for something which, while perhaps not regarded by anyone as the millennium, would be regarded by enough people in all parts of the community as a step forward, something that they could live with and work for the time being.

Mr. Walker—The Government considered the correct method to deal with these matters in the Council of Ministers. Last year, we had a discussion on the milk prices and contributions to milk.

Mr. Walker—This Prime Minister has been much more robust on this issue than any previous Prime Minister. We have been criticised from a party whose government did virtually nothing when the CAP rose from £1,600m to £1,700m.

Mr. Roy Mason (Chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Barnes, Lab.)—One recognizes that the Prime Minister is making a courageous attempt to rectify the imbalance. But what proposals has he to renegotiate the CAP so we get a better deal?

Mr. Walker—Our predecessors agreed to price increases in every price fixing on those items in surplus. We froze prices.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—That is precisely the point which concerns us. The years of production on which they might base our quotas are years in which because of the weather, production in Britain was much lower.

Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, Lab.)—Is it a quota for Britain could be met? Farmers are reluctant to take up their full allocation unless they get a chance to get a B quota.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—Mr. Freud is right. Getting a fair share of the A quota is vital to our industry.

Mr. Ralph Howell (North Norfolk, C.)—This industry is important in Norfolk and there will be much resentment if there is an unfair cutback in the quota in this country.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith—Yes. There is some criticism that our industry is less efficient than that in other countries. That falls to the account of the fact that when you relate input and output, we have an efficient industry.

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Mr. Buchanan-Smith—We are making advice from a number of quarters. As Mr. Mason thought a lot of advice was conflicting, on both sides, we shall come to a decision on the best consideration of that advice.

Immigration rules debate

House of Commons

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: National Heritage Bill, second reading; Tuesday: Debate on proposals for revision of immigration rules; Wednesday: Shipbuilding Bill, second reading; Thursday: Debate on Macroeconomic Bill; Friday: Private members' Bill, first reading.

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Good to live within one's means—treasury minister

House of Commons

The Government had a majority of 54 at the conclusion of Wednesday's debate on the state of the economy. The Opposition amendment on the issue was rejected by 311 votes to 257.

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Nuclear security rules

House of Commons

Mr. Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab.) suggested there should be a review of British involvement in European projects in which nuclear security is concerned, in the light of the Khan incident at Urenco in Holland.

Complete list of Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet and ministers

THE CABINET	Under-Secretaries of State	Sir George Young (38)
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury	Mrs Margaret Thatcher (54)	Mrs Lynda Chalker (37)
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Mr William Whitelaw (61)	Mr William Whitelaw (61)
Lord Chancellor	Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone (72)	Mr Timothy Raison (58)
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas Development	Lord Carrington (60)	Mr Leon Brittan (40)
Secretary of State for Industry	Sir Geoffrey Howe (52)	Lord Belstead (47)
Secretary of State for Defence	Sir Keith Joseph (61)	Sir Keith Joseph (61)
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords	Mr Francis Pym (57)	Mr Adam Butler (48)
Secretary of State for Employment	Lord Soames (59)	Lord Trenchard (55)
Lord Privy Seal	Mr James Prior (52)	Mr Michael Marshall (49)
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Sir Ian Gilmore (53)	Mr David Mitchell (51)
Secretary of State for the Environment	Mr Peter Walker (47)	Sir Michael Havers (56)
Secretary of State for Wales	Mr Michael Heseltine (46)	Mr James Mackay (52)
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Mr George Younger (48)	Sir Ian Percival (58)
Secretary of State for Social Services	Mr Nicholas Edwards (45)	Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (45)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr Humphrey Atkins (57)	Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone
Secretary of State for Trade	Mr Patrick Jenkin (53)	Sir Ian Gilmore
Secretary of State for Education and Science	Mr Norman St John-Stevas (50)	Mr Humphrey Atkins (57)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Mr John Nott (47)	Mr Michael Allison (53)
Paymaster General	Mr David Howell (43)	Mr Hugh Rossi (52)
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Mr Mark Carlisle (50)	Lord Eton (49)
Minister of State	Mr John Biffen (49)	Mr Philip Goodhart (54)
Parliamentary Secretary	Mr Angus Maude (57)	Mr Giles Sham (48)
Civil Service Department	Mr Peter Walker (47)	Mr Angus Maude
Minister	Lord Soames (59)	Lord Soames
Minister of State	Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith (47)	Mr George Younger (48)
Minister of State	Mr Jerry Wiggin (42)	Mr Alexander Fletcher (50)
Minister of State	Mr Paul Channon (44)	Mr Russell Fairgrieve (51)
Minister of State	Mr Francis Pym (57)	Mr Malcolm Rifkind (33)
Minister of State	Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal (56)	Mr John Nott (49)
Minister of State	Mr Keith Speed (45)	Mr Sally Oppenheim (51)
Minister of State	Mr Barrie Hayhoe (54)	Mr Cecil Parkinson (48)
Minister of State	Mr Geoffrey Pattie (43)	Mr Norman Tebbit (48)
Minister of State	Mr Norman St John-Stevas (50)	Mr Reginald Eyre (55)
Minister of State	Mr Michael Heseltine (46)	Mr Norman Fowler (41)
Minister of State	Mr Tom King (46)	Mr Kenneth Clarke (39)
Minister of State	Mr John Stanley (37)	Mr Margaret Thatcher (54)
Minister of State	Mr Marcus Fox (52)	Sir Geoffrey Howe
Minister of State	Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (53)	Mr John Biffen
Minister of State	Lord Belwin (56)	Mr Nigel Lawson (47)
Minister of State	Mr Hector Monro (57)	Mr Peter Roes (52)
Minister of State	(Minister for Sport)	Lord Cockfield (53)
Minister of State	Sir Ian Gilmore (53)	Mr Michael Jopling (48)
Minister of State	Mr Douglas Hurd (49)	Mr Carol Mather (50)
Minister of State	Mr Nicholas Ridley (50)	Mr Peter Morrison (35)
Minister of State	Mr Peter Baskerville (47)	Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (37)
Minister of State	Mr Neil Martin (53)	Mr John MacGregor (42)
Minister of State	Mr Richard Luce (43)	Mr David Waddington (50)
Minister of State	Mr Michael Heseltine (46)	Mr Robert Boscawen (56)
Minister of State	Mr Tom King (46)	Mr John Cope (42)
Minister of State	Mr John Stanley (37)	Mr Anthony Newton (43)
Minister of State	Mr Marcus Fox (52)	Mr John Wakeham (47)
Minister of State	Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (53)	Mr Peter Brooke (45)
Minister of State	Lord Belwin (56)	Mr Nicholas Edwards (45)
Minister of State	Mr Hector Monro (57)	Mr Michael Roberts (52)
Minister of State	(Minister for Sport)	Mr Wya Roberts (49)
Minister of State	Sir Ian Gilmore (53)	Mr John Stradling (40)
Minister of State	Mr Douglas Hurd (49)	Mr Thomas Spradling (34)
Minister of State	Mr Nicholas Ridley (50)	Mr Spencer Le Marchant (48)
Minister of State	Mr Peter Baskerville (47)	Mr Anthony Berry (54)
Minister of State	Mr Neil Martin (53)	Lord Denham (52)
Minister of State	Mr Richard Luce (43)	Lord Sandys (48)
Minister of State	Mr Michael Heseltine (46)	Lord Mowbray, Segar and Stewart (56)
Minister of State	Mr Tom King (46)	Lord Long (50)
Minister of State	Mr John Stanley (37)	Lord Lyell (40)
Minister of State	Mr Marcus Fox (52)	Lord Cullen (47)
Minister of State	Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (53)	Lord Trefgarne (33)
Minister of State	Lord Belwin (56)	Mr William van Straubenzee (53)
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HOME NEWS

Whitehall's waste elimination unit asks civil servants to gauge the true necessity of their tasks

Peter Hennessy

Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks Spencer and the Prime Minister's adviser on the administration of government, has circulated a document to ministers and senior servants containing his proposals for rolling back the front of Whitehall. The Rayner plan, described by the document as a "scrutiny programme", has the approval of Mrs Margaret Thatcher. It will subject departments to a detailed investigation, questioning all aspects of their work, and will be carried out by a team of officials selected to examine the necessity of their tasks. The Rayner plan, described by the document as a "scrutiny programme", has the approval of Mrs Margaret Thatcher. It will subject departments to a detailed investigation, questioning all aspects of their work, and will be carried out by a team of officials selected to examine the necessity of their tasks.

Derek writes: "Officials selected to examine the necessity of their tasks should be asked to consider the following questions: 'Why is this work done? Why is it done as it is? Why is it done more often than it is? Why is it done more expensively than it is?'"

It is clearly concerned that the Rayner plan may be seen as a "scrutiny programme" by the public. To prevent that, Sir Rayner himself will become involved in each investigation. He will write his team not to "cut" but to "re-examine" the necessity of their tasks. The Rayner plan, described by the document as a "scrutiny programme", has the approval of Mrs Margaret Thatcher. It will subject departments to a detailed investigation, questioning all aspects of their work, and will be carried out by a team of officials selected to examine the necessity of their tasks.

you firmly believed that you should put forward on the basis of the evidence... you have taken."

The Prime Minister's backing for the Rayner plan was conveyed in a letter dated October 17, from Mr Clive Whitmore, her Principal Private Secretary, to the Rayner plan. Sir Derek's detailed "note of guidance" was circulated on November 2.



Sir Derek Rayner, adviser on eliminating government waste.

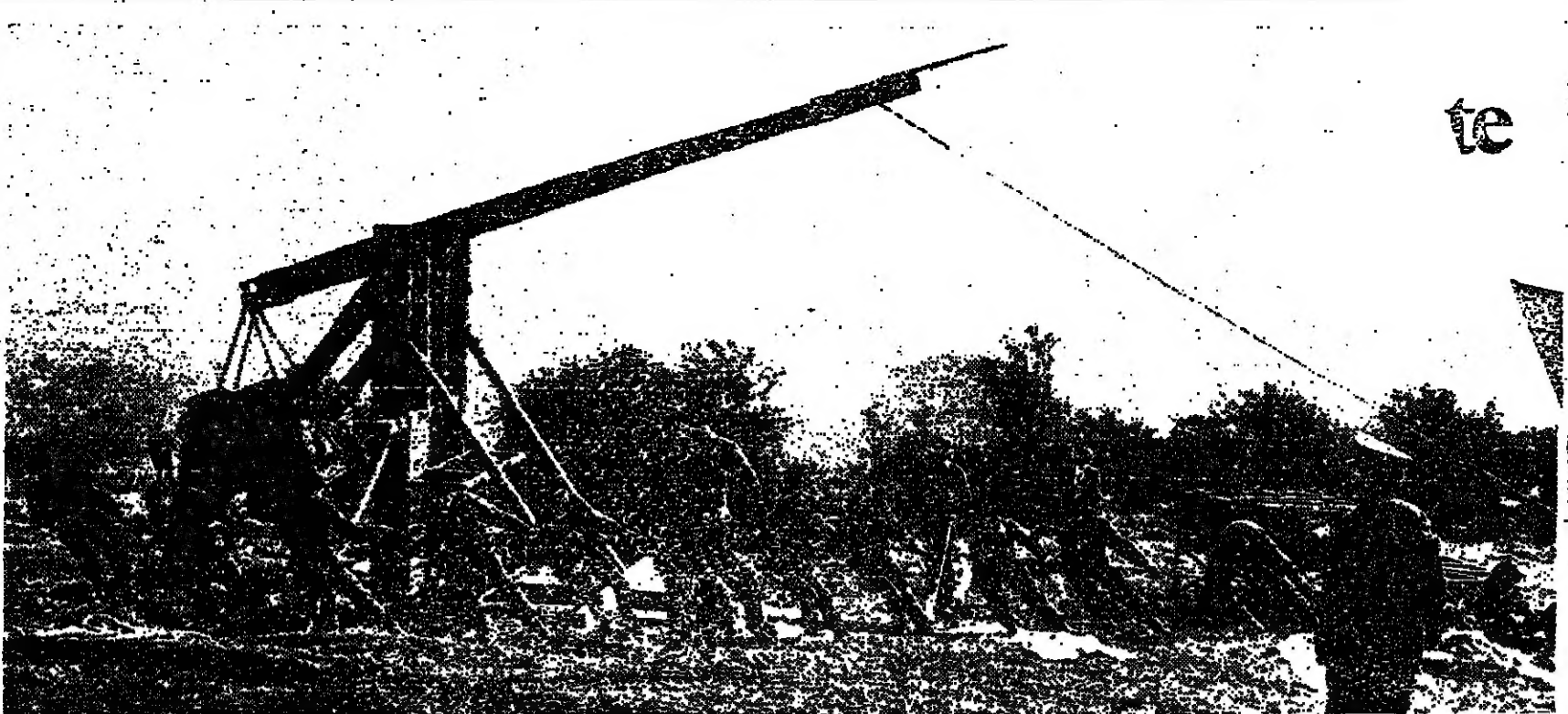
or activity studied; the interaction of that mind with the minds of those who are expert in the function or activity; the supervision of the minister accountable to Parliament for its management and the resources it consumes; and the contribution of an outside agency in the shape of my office and me.

Sir Derek goes on to offer his team detailed operating instructions: "Officials should seek solutions to problems. Their reports should offer, at the very least, the outline of the practical changes necessary; they should not dump the problem, without solution, on their minister's doorstep. The purpose is not simply good analysis of what is, but preparation for action. Scrutiny should not be conducted as desk studies. Nor should interviewing be confined to top people and HQ. There is no substitute, whatever the nature of the function or activity under study, for going and seeing it. Officials should not rely on paper to get the study going and going effectively, so—

1 Don't write around, talk around.
2 Don't assume that you know anything until you've been to see it—start where the work takes place.
3 Regard paper (sic) which you write as the product rather than the medium of the study. Given the right approach, staff will go out of their way to be helpful. The message is that you are neither 'Smart Alex' nor 'Assiduous Flinders General'—your role is not accusatory or inquisitorial, but that your department and others have an opportunity to look at a piece of administration with the enthusiastic backing of ministers, from the Prime Minister down.

Each investigation mounted under the Rayner plan is to be completed within 90 working days. Action recommended in reports is to be implemented within a year.

It is to which some commercial interests attached great importance. Animal experiments: The association appealed for measures to be introduced to tighten control and supervision over live animals used for laboratory experiments (the Press Association reports). Alternative methods should be found. The association accepted, at its monthly meeting, that animal experimentation was necessary at the present stage of scientific knowledge. Experiments on animals had led, and continued to lead, to significant advances in human and veterinary medicine.



The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, erecting a one-third scale model of a trebuchet at medieval siege artillery firing tests at Old Park Barracks, Dover, yesterday. The model was built by pupils of Highbury Grove School, London.

Alcohol significant in half of all murders

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Alcohol played a significant part in half the murder cases sampled in an analysis by staff of the Parole Board, Lord Harris of Greenwich, its chairman, said yesterday.

He gave three examples to members of the local review committees of Kent prisons. In one case a mentally disturbed youth aged 20, spent most of a day in a public house, drank an immense quantity of alcohol, then went out and killed a woman aged 90.

In another, a middle-aged man who was a voluntary patient at a mental hospital wrongly suspected his wife of having an affair. He drank most of a bottle of whisky, then went out and shot her.

In the third case a young man attending a late night party in a block of flats became drunk, staggered against the door of a flat that was not properly shut and, when the elderly woman who lived there got up to discover what was going on, struck her to the ground. She died and he said he could remember little, if anything, of what had happened.

Lord Harris said: "The relationship between alcoholism and violent crime is one of the most serious issues facing our criminal justice system". Since becoming chairman of the board this year he had become increasingly concerned about the

large number of cases, the board had reviewed, in which drink had played an important part. Many of the heaviest drinkers involved were those least able to withstand the effects of alcohol. They were inadequate, mentally unstable or subnormal. Often they had a background of acute deprivation. They came from homes in which one parent at least had had a background of alcoholism or mental illness.

Drink was also a factor in about half the cases of unpremeditated violence considered by the board. Crimes of violence rose between 1969 and 1978 by 130 per cent. In 1978, when indictable offences known to the police fell by 3 per cent, crimes of violence still rose by 6 per cent.

Lord Harris said the difficulty was that if action was taken it could have a significant impact on millions of ordinary people who wanted to buy liquor whenever they wanted it.

It was the duty of others to spell out a detailed national policy. Swinging sentences would not by themselves be an answer. "All I can say is that we must accept that unless we begin to consider drawing up a firm plan to deal with alcohol abuse, the present serious level of violent crime will not diminish."

On Monday, the World Health Organization launched its campaign against excessive drinking.

Bishops accuse the Prime Minister of fanning prejudice against minorities

By Our Home Affairs

Correspondent

Protests by bishops at government proposals to change immigration rules are gathering strength. Eighteen have signed a statement in today's Church Times advertising a call to fellow Christians "and men of good will everywhere to identify themselves with the cause of racial justice."

The statement says that while the National Front and similar organisations are crudely and blatantly evil and must be totally resisted, Christians must resist even more strongly the institutionalised racism which some highly placed politicians have made respectable and which they exploit for electoral benefit.

The signatories include the bishops or suffragans of Birmingham, Bristol, Chelmsford, Lewes, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Namibia-in-Exile, Newcastle, Ripon, Southwark, Sherborne, and Stepney. The future Archbishop of Canterbury, at present Bishop of St Albans, has signed, as has a past Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Ramsey.

The statement says that "since more people have left this country than have entered it since 1970, the Prime Minister's remarks about 'being swamped', first made last year and repeated during the election, and her calls for 'a clear prospect of an end to immigration' have in practice the effect of fanning racial prejudice".

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rights of immigrants and the rule of law concerning them have been the British judiciary, Mr Alex Lyon, Labour MP for York, chairman of the United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service, said yesterday.

Mr Lyon referred to a case in which Lord Scarman removed the protection to persons settled here before 1973 to remain. In 1973, the House of Lords ruled, against the intention of Parliament, that the power to remove illegal immigrants could be used retrospectively. In successive judgments he said the courts have progressively widened the interpretation of who is an illegal immigrant.

Unlike deportation, there is no appeal against "immigration" that the person can be arrested, imprisoned and removed without trial, he added.

Prison board seeks inquiry publication

By Our Home Affairs

Correspondent

The Board of Visitors at Wormwood Scrubs has written to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, asking him to publish the results of an inquiry into a disturbance at the prison.

Fifty-four prisoners and 11 officers were injured, receiving cuts, bruises and abrasions. The inquiry is being held by Mr Keith Gibson, the Prison Department's south east

regional director. So far, Mr Whitelaw has promised only to "report to the House".

A letter from a probation officer to the Howard League for Penal Reform gives this description of a client's observations on what took place in "D" wing on August 31: "Mr X tells me that he was at the back of the hall, so was not injured, but as he was led out over about eight or nine men lying unconscious in pools of

blood. The prison hospital ran out of stitching material as there were so many injured. The Home Office last night denied that the hospital had run short of stitching material.

In reply to a question by Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik, Labour MP for Ormskirk, the Home Secretary included Wormwood Scrubs in a list of places where a new "MUFTI" squad had been used: MUFTI stands for "Minimum use of force tactical intervention squad".

uity provides 000 to stop theatre closing

The Theatre Reporter, the actors' union, day announced that it is making the largest grant its Theatre Emergency fund to help the Gateway Theatre, Chester, which is due to close for most of next year.

It is providing £5,000 from the fund, which is largely made up of money from penalty payments by employers for the closure, for financial assistance. The Gateway Theatre, Chester, is due to close for most of next year.

Vets call for UK to lead ban on whale imports

By our Science Editor

The British Veterinary Association yesterday called for an immediate ban on imports of whale products because it believes that methods of slaughter are inhumane.

Mr Neal King, chairman of the association's advisory committee on animal welfare, urged the Government to take a lead on this issue. It was being discussed by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Department of Environment and members of the Common Market partners. But the Government could act without delay.

Mr King said that substitutes for whale products existed, including replacements for sperm oil which some commercial interests attached great importance. Animal experiments: The association appealed for measures to be introduced to tighten control and supervision over live animals used for laboratory experiments (the Press Association reports). Alternative methods should be found. The association accepted, at its monthly meeting, that animal experimentation was necessary at the present stage of scientific knowledge. Experiments on animals had led, and continued to lead, to significant advances in human and veterinary medicine.

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It's helped our customers save millions of therms this year alone!

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Award for Commerce
Working in partnership with the Technical Consultancy Service of Southern Gas, the Royal County of Berkshire cut fuel consumption in 60 schools, libraries and fire stations by 20%—saving 164,000 therms of gas during the year. First class energy management, and it will all help with the rates.

Everyone's a winner
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Company

Address

Position

BRITISH GAS

Congratulations to E. & E. Kaye Ltd. of Enfield and to the Royal County of Berkshire. They're this year's winners of the Gas Energy Management Awards.

Congratulations, too, to all the competitors—between them they saved over nine million therms for Britain.

Award for Industry

The winners of the Industrial Award, E. & E. Kaye Ltd., working with the Technical Consultancy Service of Eastern Gas, saved 75% of the fuel used on a 20 tonne furnace—over a quarter of a million therms a year. And boosted productivity as well.

WEST EUROPE

British want EEC cash to buy arms, says Tass

Michael Binyon

Moscow, Nov 29

The Russians today described Mrs Thatcher's request for changes in the EEC budget as a "trick to get her European paymasters to pay for Britain's increased military spending."

A commentator for the official news agency Tass said hundreds of millions of European currency units would have to be paid by the Community members "only because the British Conservatives are not happy about detente and are in a hurry to impose on Europe a new round of the arms race."

Tass said Mrs Thatcher was trying to persuade the EEC that Britain was one of the poorest countries in the Community and that the rich countries should loosen their purse-strings to help.

But, Tass said, "it is precisely 'poor Britain' that appears now one of the main advocates of rejecting the proposal to reduce the level of military confrontation in Europe, insisting on the deployment on the Continent of the new American nuclear weapons."

The commentator said the British themselves, who were getting poorer, would have to pay something towards the arms race. The money would be taken from social programmes.

Portuguese Socialists confident of majority in Sunday's elections

From Jose Sbercliff

Lisbon, Nov 29

Thirteen political parties are campaigning in Portugal's parliamentary elections, called by President Eanes for next Sunday.

The general elections would not normally have taken place until 1980.

But these intermediate elections have been called in view of the failure of three successive non-party prime ministers to form a government with majority support in Parliament.

These were: Senhor Nobre da Costa, a businessman; Carlos da Mota Pinto, a lawyer; Maria da Lourdes and the present Prime Minister, Senhor Pintasillo, formerly the Portuguese ambassador to Unesco in Paris.

Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, who was Prime Minister of the first two constitutional governments, is waging a countrywide party campaign.

He expresses confidence that his party will be returned with an overall majority and that he will be able to form the next government. Certainly, local political commentators confirm that his general popularity has increased during his campaign, in spite of his previous adverse reception not only in ultra-right but also in some left-wing constituencies.

Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro, head of the Social Democrats (PSD), is equally confident that he will lead a government of his supporters. For the electoral campaign, the Social Democrats have formed an alliance with Senhor Freitas do Amaral's Christian Democratic Party and the smaller Monarchist Party (TPM).

The Portuguese Communist Party (PCP), led by its veteran chief, Dr Alvaro Cunhal, also hopes for more power, based on its strength in the southern

Alentejo agricultural province, and the workers' vote in the industrial belt around Lisbon and Oporto in the north. It has formed an electioneering alliance with the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP).

Among other competing parties are the left-wing Social headed by Senhor Lopes Cardoso, the former Agricultural Minister, the little Popular Democratic Union (UDP), which had one representative in the last National Assembly, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the Marxist-Leninist PCP, and other small ultra-left-wing groups.

Urgent appeals are being made to the seven million electors to go to the polls. Among others, the Roman Catholic bishops are appealing to political waverers, claiming that to vote anti-Communist is to save the country from chaos.

Pope calls for closer links with Muslims

From Peter Nichols

Istanbul, Nov 29

The Pope today ended the silence which has so far marked his Turkish visit to make a remarkable statement of the Roman Catholic Church's esteem for Islam.

He did this shortly before arriving here to break totally new ground by visiting the famous Ottoman palace of Topkapı and the magnificent Basilica of Santa Sofia which the Turks turned into a mosque after their fifteenth-century conquest of the city.

His appeal for understanding of the religious values of what he called "the vast world of Islam" was made at Ankara in the chapel of the Italian Embassy. He was speaking to Catholic families in the Turkish capital but his words evidently were intended to have a much wider significance.

He said of the Muslim faith: "Then I think of this spiritual patrimony and of the value which is for man and for society, of its capacity to offer above all to the young a direction to their lives, to fill the void left by materialism, to give a sure foundation to the very social and juridical order. I ask myself if it is not urgent, just as Christians and Muslims are entering a new period of their history, to recognize and develop the spiritual ties which unite us."

He quoted the Second Vatican Council's assertion that Muslims believed in one living god, charitable and omnipotent creator of Heaven and Earth who had spoken to men. They tried to submit, as Abraham had submitted.

They were not, he said, a prophet even if not recognizing him as god. They honored the Virgin Mary whom they invoked at times with devotion. They awaited the Day of Judgment and for the reason held in honor the moral life and turned often to God with prayer, alms and fasting.

He even quoted, positively, from the Koran which few if any Pope can have done. After the Second Vatican Council, he said, he had been struck by the weight of the prophets and the weight of the prophets and the weight of the prophets.



The Pope and the Patriarch Dimitrios embrace as the Pope arrives at Istanbul airport.

sage from the guru of the Koran which speaks of how God breathed his spirit into man "and gave him hearing, sight and heart".

The Pope made it clear that he saw belief in monotheistic faiths as a basis for proper human conduct. Faith in God, he said, was professed in common by the descendants of Abraham, whether Christians, Muslims or Jews and when lived sincerely and made a part of life was a secure foundation for the dignity for the fraternity and for the liberty of men and as a principle for right conduct in life and in society.

It was not expected that the Pope would be explicit in judging the conduct of individual Muslims or Muslim countries, and this was the one reference he made to behaviour which some feel was the nearest he could get to making a direct comment on the Iranian situation.

He then flew from the capital to look at the finest monuments of Muslim Turkey. He was greeted by a large number of Turkish officials, including the Prime Minister, and a large number of photographers and television cameras.

The whole area had been cordoned off by the Army so once again he was denied the comfort he draws so happily from the presence of crowds. Armoured cars kept the curious far away from him.

There were no incidents today. The Pope did not go anywhere near the place where the old altar stood (now flanked by two huge candles from Mecca) before slowly leaving the great building to attend to the second task of the day, the ecumenical issue.

It had begun immediately on his arrival at Istanbul airport where he was greeted by leaders of half a dozen Christian communities led by the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios of Constantinople. As soon as the Pope had finished reading the local authorities, he moved towards the ecclesiastical and the Patriarch stepped forward to embrace him warmly.

This was the prelude to a day rich in ecumenical importance. The Pope and the Patriarch took part in a joint celebration at the Patriarch's Church of St George. They

recited a "Te Deum" together and the Lord's Prayer, the Patriarch speaking in Greek and the Pope in Latin.

In the afternoon the Pope saw the two Armenian Patriarchs. One is Catholic and the other Orthodox.

During the meeting in St George's, Greek, in the audience applauded the Pope, some shouting in Italian: "Viva il Papa" and others cheering him in Greek. The noise in itself was hardly sensational, but the historical importance no doubt made up for the Pope's mind for his self-imposed silence yesterday during the state visit with the Turkish authorities.

Tonight the Pope celebrated Mass at the Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The Patriarch was present, another event of historical importance. Tomorrow the Orthodox Patriarch celebrates the Feast of St Andrew, his Church's patron.

The Pope will attend the Orthodox service at St George's and so the summit will have been reached of ecumenical progress so far achieved between Catholics and Orthodox.

Perrier fights water bottling ban

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 29

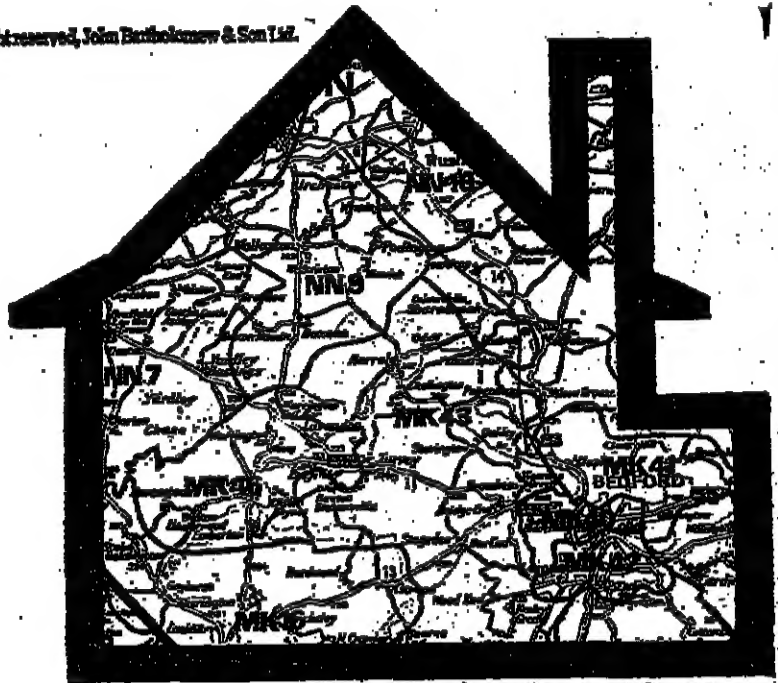
The prefect of the Yvelines has ordered the destruction of all the water bottled at the Fontaine spring, near Fontainebleau, because the departmental laboratory has reported that it is producing water with dangerous levels of microbes and chemicals.

The Fontaine water has been exploited for nearly 20 years,

and the 240 workers there have been bottling 10 million bottles a year for the Perrier group, which now controls the spring. It was widely sold in supermarkets and in bulk to hospitals.

Laurent Clement, the prefect, decided to have stocks of the water destroyed and to stop further bottling after laboratory tests on a dozen sample bottles carried out by the department showed streptococci and coliform bacteria, plus a nitrate level which could provoke blood diseases in small babies.

The Perrier group strongly contests the findings of the department's laboratories and claims that its own tests show the water is perfectly safe. The Ministry of Health has now been asked to make its own checks, and what threatens to be a long inquiry is under way.



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5/11/81/11

Royal Mail

Floating dock takes fjord refuge

From Robert Schull

Alesund, Nov 29

Two of the world's most powerful tugboats, towing the world's biggest floating dock, have taken refuge in a fjord near Alesund, along the coast of central Norway, to escape the heavy storms in the Atlantic.

It will probably be several days before the weather clears sufficiently for the tugboats, the Smit and the Smit Rotterdam, to pursue their perilous journey.

The giant Russian dock, which stranded near Murmansk last month, is being towed to the Stordfjord, in southern Norway, where it is hoped that repairs can be effected.

The two Dutch tugboats started their 1,300-mile journey on November 13 when they left the Varangerfjord, near the North Cape, with their monumental cargo in tow. The weather, however, had been expected in the area where the tugboats were following a route far from the shore so that in the event of trouble they could have drifted with the storm.

Attempts to run the tugboats into the fjord, a 1,100-ft long dock, the size of a 14-storey building but lying only some 10ft deep in the water, would have been suicidal.

The November storms that swept the seas between Iceland and Norway normally last no longer than several hours. A route was chosen to ensure that the dock would not drift on to the coast, and thus be irretrievably lost in a storm.

For the 13 men manning the dock, every conceivable safety measure has been taken. The men are equipped with special suits that will keep them alive for nine hours in the icy seas.

Helicopters have been stationed along the Norwegian coast to take the men off the dock, if the need arises.

Fouquet's falls foul of women liberationists

From Ian Murray

Paris, Nov 29

Fouquet's, the great traditional restaurant and cafe that spreads luxuriously round the Place de la Concorde, has fallen foul of the women's liberationists.

According to the latest from the French press, Fouquet's is a place where the clientele tends to be one-third gay, one-third lesbian, one-third straight, and one-third bisexual.

The women's liberationists, who are now active in Paris, have been demanding that the restaurant should be closed down.

One woman, who went to the restaurant last week, was told by the manager that the restaurant was closed down.

The manager refused to serve them. He pointed to a yellow notice on the wood panelled wall: "Unaccompanied ladies are not admitted to the bar. Signed: The Management."

The two doctors, Mme. Marie-Louise and Mme. Catherine Laurence, were outraged. They refused to sit down at a table and have their fruit juice and berry tea, but went home, angry and wrote indignant letters to, among others, Mme. Monique Pelletier, Minister for Women's Affairs, and the National Consumers' Institute, complaining that their treatment constituted "An attack on the dignity of womanhood and on the legislation concerning refusal to sell."

Since then Fouquet's little back bar has been continually pestered by women journalists sent along by their offices to be insulted by the barman.

Le Monde, ever curious, sent a man along at the weekend to watch the fun. He was able to report that two of these persistent bar-door steppers had in fact managed to be served—one

on Saturday and one on Sunday. They were not, however, served with the traditional little plate of chips and olive oil, but given to male customers. One was able to broadcast her exploit because hidden in the deep pocket of her coat was a "bug" transmitting her order to a recorder in a radio-car waiting outside.

Amantine Nicolas of L'Aurore, obviously lacks the courage or persistence of the two weekend journalists. She approached the bar and was eyed by a barman who has clearly grown weary and wary. She ordered a drink and was refused, unless she sat down. She persisted, saying: "Can't you see I'm in a hurry?" She was shown the following notice and refused to enter.

The notice read: "Fouquet's is a place where the clientele tends to be one-third gay, one-third lesbian, one-third straight, and one-third bisexual. The women's liberationists, who are now active in Paris, have been demanding that the restaurant should be closed down."

The notice also stated that the restaurant was closed down.

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Tax demand on prostitute 'immoral'

Paris, Nov 29.—A prostitute in Bordeaux is protesting the French Government for living off immoral earnings. "Isa la Soudoise", a leading member of the French prostitutes' organisation, said the charge yesterday before court.

She reportedly received a tax demand for 410,000 francs (£65,000). This has been estimated by the tax authorities on the basis that she received an average of five clients a day, six days a week, for the last eight years, and that clients paid her an average of 200 francs each.

According to Isa this figure is both exaggerated and has been fixed arbitrarily. Her charge is to the court that the state's tax demands are equivalent to those of a pimp.

She is going to suggest to French prosecutors that they should turn over a regular portion of their receipts to charity, rather than "nourishing the income tax." Recently she organised a collection among her colleagues which raised a large sum for the International Red Cross for the benefit of Vietnamese refugees.

Swiss 'neutral spy' suspect held in Austria

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Nov 29.

A businessman from Switzerland, a neutral country, is being detained in a neighbouring Austria, which is also neutral, as a suspected neutral spy.

Her Kurt Schilling, aged 57, was arrested by Austrian police after showing what they regarded as excessive interest in military manoeuvres while giving the impression he was an Englishman.

The Austrian say they are taken aback at the "odd" idea of anybody spying for the Swiss. According to the Swiss, Herr Schilling was given the observation mission by a Swiss military officer.

Paris newspaper relaunched after 16-month absence

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 29

An absence of 16 months Le Quotidien de Paris reappeared for sale again, a brave relaunch considering the severe financial difficulties which forced its closure after only four years' existence.

The gamble has been undertaken by M. Philippe Tesson, the owner of the title, who wrote bitterly in the last edition in June 1978 of the "subversive, ill-informed, vulgar claims made by the journalists and the print unions, which made closure inevitable."

The new gamble, he writes in today's issue, is made not on a financial or industrial basis, but on an editorial basis. The paper will be seeking to replace its independent course with a background news style of reporting on major events and with a daily local Paris supplement inside.

The first issue contains a new type of opinion poll—a staple diet of French journalism. This was taken to measure public reaction to President Giscard d'Estaing's television performance on Tuesday.

It shows that 49 per cent of those who watched the programme did not think the President had properly answered the questions put to him. Only 45 per cent of viewers were convinced by the explanation he gave of the demands he received as a gift from former Emperor Bokassa.

Attacks on the broadcast are continuing along traditional lines, with the Socialists and Communists being joined by the Gaullists in picking up stray phrases from the hour-long programme to score points.

There seems little likelihood that the press is yet prepared to allow the various scandals to "die in their own poison" as the President put it.

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For programme contact travel agents and ALITALIA. General information: Italian State Tourist Office (ENIT), London.

VERSEAS

Chilean church reveals
secret burial of
missing coup victims

By Florencia Varas
Santiago, Nov 29

An unusual funeral took place in the village of Laja Yumbel. The remains of 21 people were laid to rest in small wooden boxes in a mural grave. It was the funeral for the remains of 38 coup victims and 11 soldiers.

The bodies were buried for the time by the Carabineros (police) soon after their arrest during the 1973 military coup in Chile, in a pine forest in Yumbel, a market town 100 miles south of the capital.

When dogs began to howl at night, the Carabineros dug them up and reburied them in a plot in the cemetery.

At month, the remains were reburied in the cemetery. The remains were buried in the cemetery of Concepcion, following a well publicised claim by the authorities that the 21 were secretly buried in the cemetery of Concepcion.

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'Victims of
massacre'
found in
Phnom Penh

Bangkok, Nov 29.—Five mass graves each containing dozens of skeletons of adults and children have been discovered in Phnom Penh, the official Kampuchean news agency reported today.

Some of the skeletons had smashed skulls and the arms of others were bound with electric wire. The agency quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the people buried in the graves were victims of a massacre of workers and their families three years ago under the Khmer Rouge regime—Agence France-Presse.

Treason accusation: Vietnam today accused Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Kampuchean head of state, of treason. The Hanoi newspaper Nhan Dan complained that Prince Sihanouk has disavowed the Vietnamese-backed administration in Phnom Penh and that he has been "aggressive and colonialist."

Prince Sihanouk arrived in Paris last Sunday and called for an international conference to end the fighting in Kampuchea. Food held up: Mr. Matthew Nimetz, acting co-ordinator of the American relief effort, said in Washington today that several thousand tonnes of food had been sent into Phnom Penh in recent weeks but had not been distributed. A State Department official said that possibly 10,000 tonnes, out of 13,000 tonnes sent in, were still in warehouses.—Reuters.

US gave warning of
Polar flight dangers

From W. P. Reeves,
Wellington, Nov 29

Three New Zealand mountaineers who were winched down from a United States Mount Erebus today found no trace of survivors of the Air New Zealand DC 10 disaster in the Antarctic.

Temperatures on the volcano were below zero and swirling winds made it impossible for the helicopter to land. The mountaineers stayed only briefly, inspecting scattered wreckage, before being hauled back to the helicopter.

The airliner was carrying 237 passengers and 20 crew on a sightseeing flight from Auckland to the Antarctic when it crashed.

A four-man team from the McDonnell Douglas company, which manufactures the DC10, are expected to arrive in New Zealand tomorrow as are other aviation officials. They will help New Zealand authorities try to establish the cause of the crash.

A team of police mountaineers experienced in the region left this afternoon for the Antarctic. They will work from Scott base to recover the bodies. Progress will depend very much on the weather in this forbidding land.

The disaster, the worst in New Zealand's history in terms of lives lost, has highlighted warnings from United States Antarctic authorities about flights of this kind.

Air New Zealand has flown 14 such sightseeing trips in the last three years.

Critics had given warnings that a lack of adequate facilities could lead to a disaster in the hazardous environment if anything went wrong. In Washington six weeks ago an Antarctic consultative committee meeting expressed concern about the dangers arising from increased tourist flights over the Antarctic.

Apparently this concern related not to Air New Zealand or Qantas, which are the only operators flying such excursions fairly regularly, but to possible one-off trips by other airlines.

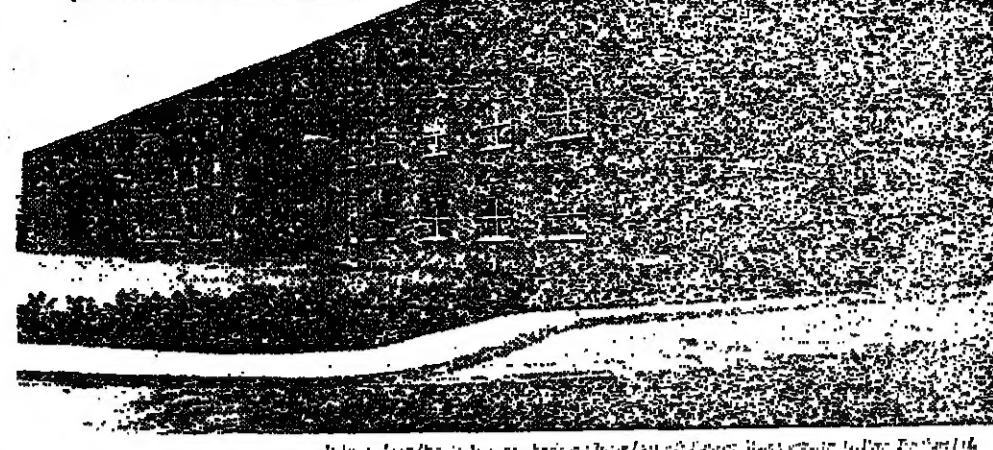
Air New Zealand said the ill-fated flight was to have been the last of the season and none had been scheduled for 1980. Four British women: Six Britons were among those who died in the crash. They included Miss Audrey Anderson, aged 75, of Moor Road, Guildford, Surrey, a former head of the BBC's Czechoslovak Service.

Three women exchange teachers were also killed. They were Miss Susan Copley, aged 35, of Doncaster Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, Miss Elizabeth Edwards, 29, of Richmond Road, Newport, Gwent, and Mrs Elaine Trinder, 29, of Derwent Drive, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

The other Britons who died were Mr H. A. Potter, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire and Mrs J. Holloway.

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criticism in Peking of
democracy wall' grows

Sing, Nov 29.—A campaign in Peking today as official newspapers attempted to stir up publication against the activists have criticised the regime.

People's Daily gave front-page coverage to President of the National People's Congress, China's highest body, in favouring the wall.

Leaders at Peking's main daily were reported to be angered by the activists' said the activists had the Chinese lose face "in front of foreigners."

Leaders said the campaign was organised. It was as paying the way for a on to ban Xidan Wall, as shown in China.

Leaders at a rally said that a socialist country like enjoying extensive democracy with a constitution set according to well-defined and where the rights of

the people are staunchly defended. "We do not need a Xidan Wall."

These meetings followed extensive newspaper coverage of the Congress members' calls for resolute measures to deal with those who "used the wall" with ulterior motives to disrupt social order and security.

An editorial in the People's Daily today also voiced concern over the advanced age of leading party officials and called for an urgent rejuvenation of the gerontocracy by younger men.

While saying that it was wrong to look down on the elderly, the editorial said that leading officials were often of advanced age and in poor health.

It added: "Some of them cannot work for eight hours a day." It called for "elite young and middle-aged cadres" to be "put in leadership posts without hesitation."

The average age of the party Central Committee is 69 and one member is 87—Agence France-Presse.

Salvador, Nov 29.—The American republic of Salvador has suspended relations with South Africa because of its apartheid policies.

Official announcements said the suspension followed the kidnapping yesterday, by unidentified men, of the South African ambassador, Mr Archibald.

was seized in front of his car as he was about to go for lunch. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the on to suspend diplomatic relations with South Africa was before Mr Dunn's kidnapping, but all efforts would be made to rescue him.

diplomatic break 'decided
fore envoy's kidnapping'

here today, for the kidnappers to allow him to join his father. So far none of several guerrilla groups operating in this troubled country has claimed responsibility. Mr Dunn's kidnapping—Reuters.

Pretoria, Nov 29.—The South African Government would do all it could to ensure the safety of Mr Dunn but its official policy was to negotiate with terrorists, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said today.

South Africa does not subject itself to blackmail. It has been the case in the past and must remain so, he said adding that he had no comment to make on reports that El Salvador had cut off diplomatic relations with his country.

El Salvador's honorary ambassador to South Africa, in Karl Albrecht, said there has been no official word from his government that relations between the two countries were finished.

He did not expect to hear anything until Friday.—UP.

Berlin visit ended by Gromyko

Our Correspondent
3, Nov 29
Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, will leave East Berlin soon. ADN.

East German news agency, the visit was arranged by Herr Erich Honecker, East German leader, and A. Abramson, the Soviet ambassador to East Germany, was announced.

Gromyko could come in connection with the conference in Warsaw Pact's foreign ministers in East Berlin, next month or pay an extra visit.

Gromyko visited Bonn last week. His remarks made a lively debate in the on the Soviet Union's side to the question of NATO range rocket missiles Western Europe.

Space metal
monument for
Yuri Gagarin

Moscow, Nov 29.—Pavel Bondarenko, a Soviet sculptor, is designing a 130ft monument in cast titanium to Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. Tass reported today.

The monument, which will include a 40ft statue of the cosmonaut, will stand in the north of the Soviet capital.

The Gagarin monument will be the first sculpture to be made of cast titanium, a lustrous silver-white metal widely used in the construction of spacecraft because of its light weight and resistance to heat and pressure.

—UPI.

Monkey business
Jakarta, Nov 29.—Officials in the central Celebes area of Indonesia are considering importing monkeys for training as coconut pickers.

OVERSEAS

54 Congressmen urge Mr Carter to issue ultimatum to Iran backed by threat of military action

From David Cross
Washington, Nov 29

A group of 54 members of the House of Representatives today called on President Carter to issue an ultimatum to Iran for the release of the remaining 49 hostages at the American Embassy in Tehran. Mr Carter should set a deadline for the release of the hostages and if this was not met "initiate specified military operations against Iran", the Congressmen said when they tabled a resolution calling for such action.

Announcing the move, Mr Samuel Stratton, a Democrat from New York, said the resolution was designed to support the President in his efforts to solve "this complicated and dangerous situation".

The adoption of such an approach might well increase the likelihood of a safe release of the hostages without the urgent pressures placed on Iran by neighbouring states unwilling to see the introduction of military operations into the Gulf area, he added.

The idea of issuing an ultimatum was rejected by President Carter during his televised press conference at the White House last night. Setting a deadline, he said, might result in

harm to, or the death of, the hostages. Many members of Congress are not keen on the idea either. Mr James Wright, the Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, described the suggestion as "very risky" and probably "counter-productive".

But the fact that about an eighth of the membership of the Lower House is supporting the draft resolution illustrates the growing sense of frustration in the United States at the Administration's apparent inability to secure the release of the hostages.

"What concerns us", Mr Stratton told reporters, "is that if the other courses of action fail to produce results (diplomatic efforts, a meeting of the United Nations Security Council, etc.), it is not beyond the realm of possibility that the hostages might continue to be held indefinitely, in captivity, in deplorable conditions, subject to rigged 'spy' trials and other abuses."

"In our view the longer this situation continues unresisted, and without a concerted, overt response from the United States, the greater will be the damage to American prestige and influence, and the greater will be the risk that other Americans in other embassies

in other parts of the world might also be taken hostage by terrorist groups, believing the United States was either unable or unwilling to reply", he added.

Mr Stratton pointed out that the draft resolution, if it were passed by Congress, would not be binding on the President. "It mandates nothing and the President is therefore free to consider it or ignore it as he sees fit", he said. Moreover, the deadline date called for in the resolution was entirely up to the President.

In another development, Mr George Hansen, a Republican member of the House of Representatives from Idaho, returned to Capitol Hill today from what he called his "mission of mercy" to Tehran. At a press conference he rejected criticism by the White House, the State Department and many of his colleagues in Congress that his trip had been misguided.

He had tried to fill a vacuum produced by the complete lack of any official American interlocutors in Tehran, he told reporters. He would now report his findings to the State Department and the White House in the hope that they might be useful to the Administration in its search for a solution.

President gives grave warning to Tehran

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 29

President Carter said on television last night that the United States held "the Government of Iran fully responsible for the well-being and the safe return of every single person among the hostages held in Tehran."

Mr Carter used the measured phrases of traditional diplomacy, and his warning was thereby the more effective. All those in authority in Iran, who know anything of the world, must now realize what is involved.

The President referred to diplomatic efforts to obtain the hostages' release. "We hope that this exercise of diplomacy and the international law will bring a peaceful solution, because a peaceful solution is preferable to the other remedies available to the United States."

At the same time that we pursue such a solution with calm determination, the Government of Iran must realize the gravity of the situation which it has, itself, created and the grave consequences which will result if harm comes to any of the hostages.

After making his statement, Mr Carter was asked about the possibility of the United States might use force against Iran. He replied: "It would not be advisable for me to explore publicly all the options open to our country. As I said earlier, I am determined to do the best I can through diplomatic means and through peaceful means to

ensure the safety of our hostages and their release."

"Other actions which I might decide to take would come in the future after those peaceful means have been exhausted. I believe that the growing condemnation of the world community on Iran will have a beneficial effect."

The President refused to set any deadline for resolving the crisis. Some reports had been pinned on the Security Council meeting, which is now in doubt because of the change in foreign ministers in Iran. American patience will presumably hold out at least until next week when the Shia religious fervour will have abated, the Iranian constitutional referendum will be out of the way and the Shah will have returned to Mexico.

The aircraft carrier *Kinshark* is now within range of Iran and the entire and very powerful American fleet now in the Indian Ocean could be anywhere in the region where Carter was by next week.

Mr Carter was also asked why he had agreed to allow the Shah to enter the United States, and about allegations that Dr Henry Kissinger had exerted undue pressure on the Administration to do this. He replied: "The decision that I made personally and without pressure from anyone to carry out the principles of our country, to provide for the means of giving the Shah necessary medical assistance to save his life, was proper." The decision was taken entirely on humanitarian grounds.

US plea to World Court on hostages

The Hague, Nov 29.—The United States asked the International Court of Justice today to order Iran to release the hostages being held in the American Embassy in Tehran, a United States Embassy spokesman said.

The request was in a letter from Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, to Sir Humphrey Waldock, the British President of the United Nations Court, which sits in The Hague. It is the first time in more than 20 years that the United States has asked the court to intervene on its behalf.

Mr Vance also petitioned the 15-judge court, also known as The World Court, to condemn Iran's "multiple violations of the immunities of the United States diplomats and embassy" in Tehran.

He asked that pending such a judgment the court should order the immediate freeing of the 49 embassy staff who have been held since November 4 by militant students demanding the extradition from the United States of the deposed Shah.

The International Court was set up under the United Nations Charter in 1945. Its decisions are authoritative but binding in practice have been often disregarded because the court has no means of enforcing them. It was not immediately clear whether the affair could be brought before The Hague court. It can only deal with cases with the consent of both parties concerned.



Hundreds of thousands of Iranians marching through Tehran yesterday, scouring themselves to mark the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein at the battle of Karbala in Iraq. They also chanted "Death to America".

Villagers take over after the departure of the landlords

How two revolutions came in 17 years to Kahak, a place no foreign visitor sees

From Robert Fisk
Kahak, Iran, Nov 29

Kahak is the sort of place no one ever goes to visit. It lies, a rectangle of mud and clay single-story houses, at the end of a dirt road with only a couple of children and a dung heap picked over by fat chickens to welcome a stranger.

Through the dust and the heat haze to the north, the Alborz mountain range runs along the horizon, forming the lower limit of the Caspian Sea basin. Foreigners never see Kahak, except perhaps the passengers on the night train to the Soviet frontier as it skirts the village archways.

Even then, it is doubtful if they would notice Kahak. It is so small that its 950 inhabitants cannot support a mosque of their own. A mullah, a prematurely aging man of 64 with a stick of perspiration running down his face from beneath his turban and shirt, has been in charge of the village since he took up from Qaim to minister to the faithful.

He is a man capable of extraordinary energy and he walks nimbly round the heaps of manure and puddles of soiled foreign water, he tells about the village in a possessive, slightly rhetorical, almost sermonizing way, his voice rising and falling in the cadences of a formal speech rather than a conversation.

Shahkhan Zadeh points to the hard, unwatered land he has tilled with a desert of grey unyielding earth. "The

villagers own everything on both sides of the road", he says, "but they do not know how much land they have." The heat shimmer and dances on the old and dried-up irrigation ditches. There are no deeds of ownership, no papers and no legal covenants in Kahak now that the landlords have gone.

Just when the landlords did depart is something that bothers Shahkhan Zadeh. "In the past regime", he explains, "there were two big landowners—Habbib Sardai and Ibrahim Solehi. The villagers lived in very bad conditions. Some of them were so poor that they owed many debts, but Sardai and Solehi came here and took their grain in payment."

"I remember seeing these villagers going to other villages to buy back their own grain at high prices. So the people had to borrow money for this and then pay interest on the loans."

More than a dozen villagers have gathered round us as Shahkhan Zadeh talks on. They are poor people, most of them Turkish in origin with high, shiny cheekbones. Their old, grey jackets are torn and their trousers are frayed where the rubble and thorns in the fields have scratched them. They have scratched their faces with cheap plastic razors.

There is only one girl with them, a 13-year-old with dark hair who has wrapped herself shawl-like in a pink and grey chador veil. Things improved for us", Shahkhan Zadeh said. "Sardai and Solehi left with the land reforms. There is no perceptible change in the mullah's face. He has been asked about last February's revolution but he is in fact talking about the Shah's so-called 'white' revolution 17 years ago when the land reform laws ostensibly curtailed the power of the big landowners."

Private holdings were redistributed and landowners could retain only one village. Four farmers were thereby brought into the economy, although most labourers and farm workers remained untouched. Kahak, it seems, did not benefit in the long term from such reforms, as Shahkhan Zadeh makes clear. "There were good things for us in the reforms. The number of sheep owned by the villagers went up from 2,000 to 3,000. But the village itself, instead of being owned by two men was now run by government agents, Darude Gilani, a capitalist from the town of Qasvin in the north. He was a bad man and he collected rent by demanding half of the villagers' crops."

There is an old man with an unshaven chin and a cataract in his left eye who has walked to the front of the villagers. From his grubby yellow shirt hang broken shoes, one would not imagine him Mr Asim Mahmoudi was the village headman and the largest farmer. He looks at the mullah for a moment and says, very slowly: "Darude Gilani is in Qasvin prison now."

Mr Mahmoudi wants to talk about the land reforms because the Shah later instituted co-operative farming, a system that did not appeal to the villagers' with their newly acquired but individually uneconomic land.

"The Shah came down to this region once", Mr Mahmoudi says. "I met him—I was introduced to him." There is a silence while his small audience takes this in. "What did he say to me? He asked me if we had instituted co-operative farming in our village. I told him we had. I was lying. I was just too frightened to tell the truth."

Mr Mahmoudi walks across the village square, followed by a small throng of school children. He points to a crumbling, fortified mud house with two storeys—a sign of opulence amid such poverty. "That is where Solehi used to live", he says, gesturing towards the broken windows. "He is dead now and the villagers live in his house. Now Gilani is gone too. He will not come back."

There is indeed no reason why Mr Gilani should return to Kahak, even if he is released from prison. For on the first day of the revolution last February, when the villagers saw the Imperial Army surrendering in Tehran on the screen of a small black-and-white television set, they walked down to the fields which Mr Gilani owned on each side of the railway line. There they planted their own barley as a symbol that the revolution had arrived in Kahak.

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Great train robbery to fulfil plan in Odessa

From Michael Binzon
Moscow, Nov 29

The Soviet railway system is in chaos. President Brezhnev told senior party officials this week that troubles on the railways, more than anything else, were responsible for bottlenecks and shortages in the Soviet economy. One small example from the little republic of Moldavia, close to the Romanian border, illustrates his point.

In August, responsibility for the line from Kishinyov, the Moldavian capital, to the nearby port city of Odessa in the Ukraine was divided. On the first day of the new arrangement a train set out from Kishinyov, crossed the border into the newly independent Odessa administrative zone and disappeared.

When the locomotive failed to return to its home depot in Moldavia the alarm was raised. Inquiries were made, there were telephone calls, telegrams and so on.

When the train was becoming urgent, Moldavia had just harvested a large crop of fruit and vegetables which had to be shipped quickly before they went bad, and a full complement of locomotives was needed to transport them to Siberia and the Far East.

It turned out the train had not just disappeared. It had been captured. The moment it crossed into the Odessa railway zone, the railway workers had seen their chance, they commandeered the engine, and set it to work on their lines. Now they could easily not only fulfil their plan to reach Odessa, it was a handsome bonus.

It was not the only locomotive to disappear. Not a single train that set out for Odessa ever came back.

So the Moldavians appealed to the Soviet government for help. The factory responded by sending three of their newest models. The snag was that the line to Moldavia passed through the Odessa network. Not surprisingly, locomotive ZTE10V numbers 0001 to 0003 were turned up. They had also been kidnapped en route.

The Moldavians then telephoned the head of the Odessa railway system. "I don't know anything about this," he replied. "I have no idea where they are. But all he did was twiddle his thumbs. So in despair they contacted the Ministry of Transport in Moscow.

That brought a reaction. Sparks began to fly. A telegram from Moscow was sent to Odessa with the cryptic message: "Read: 'Despite the ruling of the Ministry of Transport, engines ZTE10V numbers 0001 to 0003 are working on the Odessa network, while they are legally regarded as lost.'"

Nothing happened. The Moldavians waited in vain for their engines. They sent more telegrams, telephoned Moscow again. There was consternation in the ministry. It was quite unheard of to ignore an order that had come from the highest authorities. Thunders began to roll, and asked for more motive number 0003 was released from captivity.

But the Moldavians protested, more than one train had disappeared where were the others? It appears that Odessa had hidden them on branch lines.

Pravda recently revealed the story of the Odessans' piracy of the main lines. Reflecting on the great train robbery, the newspaper asked: "How is it possible that the Ministry of Transport is unable to enforce its decrees, even those delivered with thundering threats?"

It is a question Mr Brezhnev himself asked, in a tone just as ominous, two days ago.

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Prosecutor investigates Carter aide

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 29

Mr Hamilton Jordan, President Carter's controversial chief of staff, is being investigated by a Special Prosecutor for allegedly using cocaine at a New York discotheque.

Announcing this in Washington today, Mr Benjamin Civiletti, the Attorney-General, said that he could not conclude at this stage that the allegations were "so unsubstantiated that no further investigation is warranted". He based his conclusion on a preliminary inquiry by law enforcement agencies.

"Information from a number of pertinent witnesses has not been obtained, and the preliminary investigation without compulsory process. Final resolution will require that information, an assessment of the credibility of several witnesses, under oath, and the evaluation of evidence," Mr Civiletti added.

The Special Prosecutor, who was chosen by a special Federal Court, consisting of three judges, is to be Mr Arthur Christy of New York, a former United States Attorney and now in private practice.

Mr Bassam Shaka, the Arab Mayor of Nablus, on the West Bank, ended a 14-day hunger strike against his detention and planned expulsion early today.

Mr Shaka said he was persuaded the mayor to eat at the end of an exhausting nine-hour hearing of his appeal by a military advisory committee meeting in Ramle prison.

The lawyer, an Israeli Jewess, said she persuaded her client to eat his fast after she was told he would be forced because the sugar rate in his blood had fallen dangerously low. She also conveyed a message from his fellow mayors urging him to eat.

A black-out was imposed on details of the hearing, which began yesterday at 4.30 pm and ended at 1.30 am today. Mrs Langer said she deeply re-

IRA suspect refuses to give name

From Michael Leape
New York, Nov 29

A man whose immigration official says is Mr Michael O'Rourke, an IRA expert, refused to identify himself at a deportation hearing here today.

Asked by the judge to give his name, he replied: "I respectfully decline to answer that question on the ground that it might incriminate me."

The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution allows witnesses not to answer questions on the ground that they might incriminate themselves. An earlier hearing three weeks ago the man had identified himself as Mr O'Rourke and since then he has been in jail in New York.

The Immigration Service is trying to deport him on the ground that he entered the country illegally. After the judge ruled today that the original ground for deportation was inadmissible the Government lawyer introduced a second charge and the hearing was adjourned for a week.

The first charge was that the defendant would not say where or when he had entered the country. The judge ruled that this was not a proper ground for deportation. He said the defendant was charged with entering the country without presenting himself to an immigration officer.

Nearly 200 spectators, most

from the Irish community here, filled all the seats in the modern, high-ceilinged courtroom where the hearing took place. They had to pass through two separate metal detectors and during the hearing five agents from the Secret Service kept an eye on them.

The defendant is a short, slim man with a shock of black hair, wearing a light blue shirt, a brown jacket and a brown sweater. He wore a brown jacket and sweater, blue checked shirt.

This morning's hearing, lasting two hours, was conducted with a shock of black hair, wearing a light blue shirt, a brown jacket and a brown sweater. He wore a brown jacket and sweater, blue checked shirt.

He said that Mr Stephen Brit, an immigration official, was called to the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Philadelphia and told that the man was Mr O'Rourke. Mr Brit asked him how he entered the United States but he refused to answer.

An FBI agent then told Mr Brit that Mr O'Rourke was an IRA terrorist who had escaped from a jail in Ireland.

Mr Karo said he himself had no evidence that the defendant was an alien, except that "he spoke with a brogue". Karo, however, the prosecuting lawyer, Mr Donald Ferless, said that he had a birth certificate showing that the defendant had been born abroad.

Mr Ferless was not allowed to call as witnesses two Irish policemen who had found here to give evidence of the man's identity. The judge ruled that such evidence could not be admitted until he ruled next week on whether the new ground for deportation was valid.

In 1976, Mr O'Rourke, who is 27, blasted his way out of a Dublin court where he had been giving evidence. He was at that time serving a six-year sentence for possessing explosives.

Six days after this escape, Mr Christopher Rwart-Biggs, the Irish Ambassador to Ireland, was killed by a terrorist bomb. Mr O'Rourke has been sought for questioning in the case.

Next week the judge will decide whether the new charge is a proper one. If he decides that the hearing charge is valid, the immigration authorities will seek to prove that the defendant is Mr O'Rourke and that he did enter the country illegally. If they succeed, he will be deported, though he could appeal.

Mayor of Nablus ends 14-day hunger strike

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Nov 29

Mr Bassam Shaka, the Arab Mayor of Nablus, on the West Bank, ended a 14-day hunger strike against his detention and planned expulsion early today.

Mr Shaka said he was persuaded the mayor to eat at the end of an exhausting nine-hour hearing of his appeal by a military advisory committee meeting in Ramle prison.

The lawyer, an Israeli Jewess, said she persuaded her client to eat his fast after she was told he would be forced because the sugar rate in his blood had fallen dangerously low. She also conveyed a message from his fellow mayors urging him to eat.

gretted she could not reveal what went on in court but "it was very interesting".

Mr Shaka reportedly made a statement to the panel of three judges on his views concerning Palestinian Arab terror. The Israelis had claimed he supported terror and had threatened an Israeli general if would continue until the Palestinians received satisfaction.

An authorized military source said the panel will probably send its recommendations on Monday to the military governor of Judea and Samaria who will then pass them to the Defence Minister.

South African troops kill 68 in Angola

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Nov 29

South Africa has made a "hit" in a raid into Angola, it was announced in Windhoek today, during the operation, which was aimed at guerrilla bases in Angolan territory, 68 insurgents, belonging to the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), were killed.

According to Brigadier Bosman, the raid followed a battle with SWAPO guerrillas inside the operational area in the north of South-West Africa (Namibia) earlier this week in which seven guerrillas were killed.

A total of 517 insurgents have been killed since April, of whom 147 were killed this month. South African security forces deaths during September totalled three.



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VERSEAS

'akistan journalist receives year's hard labour for an article

From Hassan Akhtar
Karachi, Nov 29

Salamat Ali, the Pakistan correspondent of the Hong Kong-based weekly *Far Eastern Economic Review*, was today sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment by a two-man military court presided over by Major Munir.

Salamat Ali wrote an article, "Baluchistan, an upheaval cast" which was published in the *Review's* October 19 issue.

He was brought before the court with his hands manacled and escorted by two policemen. He was given four minutes for the four pages to be read out and the judge's verdict of guilty given.

Major Munir said the article attempted to create a false impression of the Baluchistan situation and that it was a "disrespectful and defamatory" attack on the military and administrative authorities of the province.

Salamat Ali had been sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment by a two-man military court presided over by Major Munir.

Ali was charged with the death sentence which can be given by a higher military court.

While Mr Salamat Ali immediately begins his year's hard labour like an ordinary convict, Mr Munir is exploring the possibilities of appealing against the conviction.

Mr Salamat Ali, aged 47 and married with four children, heard the sentence without obvious emotion. The packed court was silent enough for a minute as he fell silent.

Mr Salamat Ali began his career as a journalist about 20 years ago and was once detained for a brief spell under President Ayub Khan's martial law for an alleged violation of the Official Secrets Act during the early sixties. The charge was dropped.

Meanwhile, the Spad martial law administrator, Lieutenant-General S. M. Abbasi, has ordered the closure of Karachi's English daily, the *Morning News*, until completion of an inquiry into an article the newspaper published on November 19. The article was considered to have injured the feelings of the Shikharis.

The inquiry has to be completed within a week to fix the responsibility for publication of the article.

Hong Kong, Nov 29.—The *Far Eastern Economic Review* has appealed to President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan to exercise clemency for Mr Salamat Ali.

In a message to the President, the editor, Mr Derek Davies, said: "We would respectfully draw your attention to the fact that the chief prosecution witness described the article complained of in court as presenting a reasonable interpretation of the situation in the province of Baluchistan. Please restore our faith in your country's justice by granting clemency."—Reuters.

Leading article, page 15

Growing number of parents are putting restrictions on their children's viewing

Anti-social TV worries Australians

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Nov 29

More Australians are becoming concerned with what they consider to be the anti-social effects of watching television, according to a survey by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal.

An increasing number of parents are taking measures to protect their children from too much television, imposing restrictions on their viewing unheeded of 10 years ago.

These trends are shown in a wide-ranging series of surveys during a 10-year period, collected by the tribunal in a booklet. It shows that in Melbourne alone the number of households which restrict their children's

viewing has doubled in seven years.

A survey conducted in 1968 found only 36 per cent of Melbourne parents enforced rules on the hours television could be switched on. By 1975 the figure had jumped to 70 per cent.

The report says: "Major concern was with items containing sex, violence, innuendo and crime. Parents also attempted to protect their children from frightening or anxiety-inducing drama." But most children continued to watch prohibited programmes, it said.

A survey carried out in 1968 in Sydney and Melbourne and in 1973 in Adelaide shows those who see television as a cause of anti-social behaviour increased

from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

In the same five-year period those who felt television was of value to children "in giving experience of the right sort of behaviour" fell from 35 per cent to 28 per cent.

The section on "contentious advertising" discloses that more Melbourne than Sydney people consider large advertisements in poor taste, and 21 per cent of Melbourne people and only 10 per cent of Sydney viewers find advertisements for men's underwear offensive.

In both states many people found advertisements for women's underwear offensive. Overall, the main categories of objection were sex, 30 per cent; advertising, 29 per cent; and violence, 38 per cent.

Briton imprisoned for leaving US Navy

From a Special Correspondent
Philadelphia, Nov 29

Because of a mix-up over his discharge papers, a self-employed electrical contractor from Claymont, Surrey, has been sentenced to nine months' hard labour for walking away from his United States Navy training post during the Vietnam war.

Ronald Mounsey, aged 29, will continue to be held in the jail of the United States naval base here where he has been held since August. Mr Mounsey was reunited by the sentence, the stiffer that the military judge could have imposed under a plea bargain agreement. He had pleaded guilty to taking an unauthorized absence from a Navy radio school since 1970 in order to avoid desertion charges.

He is a dual national, born in St Louis, Missouri, to British parents. My case has been treated with a blindfold, he complained.

Bangladesh steps up border feud

From Our Correspondent
Calcutta, Nov 29

A dispute over 44 acres of land on the border of India and Bangladesh is developing into a serious political issue. It has already caused border forces of the two countries to exchange fire almost daily for nearly a month.

Firing has continued despite a recent agreement for a joint inspection to settle the dispute. In fact, Bangladesh paramilitary forces stepped it up with light machine guns when a joint inspecting team visited the area on the Indian state of Tripura yesterday. There were no casualties.

The intention seems to be to intimidate. The inspectors are trying to determine whether either side has been attempting to change the course of a small river near the border town of Beonia.

Last Libyan Amin troops are freed by Tanzania

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Nov 29

The last of the Libyan troops captured by Tanzanian forces while fighting with Idi Amin's army in Uganda earlier this year have been freed by Tanzania. The 47 Libyans were flown from Dar es Salaam last night in a special Algerian aircraft destined for Tripoli.

They had been held prisoner in Tanzania since April, when they were captured in the final stages of the Tanzanian attack which drove the Amin regime from Kampala.

President Nyerere of Tanzania earlier denied suggestions his country was demanding a cash ransom from Libya before returning the prisoners. Details of the repatriation arrangements have not been revealed, but Algeria has been negotiating between the two governments to secure the men's release.

An estimated 2,000 Libyans were airlifted to Uganda in March and April to support the Amin forces. They suffered heavy casualties in the fighting, and 56 were taken prisoner while the remainder were flown home to Libya.

The return of the last Libyan prisoners—the others were freed in June—coincides with moves to improve relations between Libya and the civilian government in Uganda.

A delegation headed by Mr Paulo Muwanga, the Ugandan Interior Minister, flew to Libya this week with a message for Colonel Gaddafi, aimed at normalizing relations. Libya has already reopened its embassy in Kampala.

Uganda has no real hope that Libya will force Idi Amin, who is now living in Libya, to return to face trial in Uganda, but the Ugandans are pressing for the return of the Boeing 707 airliner in which the former president fled to Libya last April.

A number of Ugandans who had been studying in Libya were recently allowed to return.



"I'd planned to have enough. But these days I have to have some help."

When you've once known a reasonable standard and have saved for your retirement, what can you do when inflation makes a mockery of all your careful planning?

You can turn to the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association.

To begin with, the DGAA will understand. Although they have 13 Residential and Nursing Homes, they know that people want to stay in their own homes for as long as they can cope, keeping their friends and the roots they have put down over the years.

So, the DGAA helps with allowances. They send clothes parcels. They remember Birthdays and Christmases. They help with a little extra when a crisis upsets a tiny budget.

Please help the DGAA with a donation. And please, do remember the DGAA when making out your Will.

DISTRESSED GENTLEFOLK'S AID ASSOCIATION

Vicarage Gate House, Vicarage Gate, Kensington, London W8 4AQ

"Help them grow old with dignity"

Afghan army under attack as rebels renew fighting

Jamshid, Nov 29.—Muslim

rebels have launched a counter-attack in the Pakhtia province of Afghanistan in an attempt to recapture the strongholds from which they were ousted last month by the jet-backed Afghan forces, a spokesman said today.

In Kunar province, further north, the Afghan army had been beaten back by the rebels. Government armoured columns and infantry had moved out of Chagaxar, a besieged garrison at the southern end of the province, at the weekend, he added, but the sortie was checked after heavy fighting and the Government forces returned to their redoubts.—Reuters.

The spokesman for the Pajman-I-Irtahade (Islamic) (Union of Islamic Fighters), a loose banding of four rebel groups, said the Mujahadeen (Muslim fighters) had overrun Gawi, a military post near the border.

In Kunar province, further north, the Afghan army had been beaten back by the rebels. Government armoured columns and infantry had moved out of Chagaxar, a besieged garrison at the southern end of the province, at the weekend, he added, but the sortie was checked after heavy fighting and the Government forces returned to their redoubts.—Reuters.

Gourmet's society for Peking

From Richard Hughes
Hong Kong, Nov 29

Peking will have its first wine and food society when Mr Alain Maurice Mayombo, the Gabonese Ambassador, establishes a local branch of the ancient Chinese des Rotisseurs in the People's Republic in January.

Mr Mayombo, passing through Hong Kong, was elected a member of the ancient society at a dinner in a leading hotel last week and accepted a request to form a first chapter in Peking.

This will be the nineteenth branch of La Chaine in the world, and Mr Mayombo expects that not only foreign-born ambassadors and business residents but also Communist Party leaders and Chinese hoteliers will become members.

More than 100 members of the Hong Kong branch of La Chaine des Rotisseurs, including Sir Denis Roberts, the Chief Justice and former acting Governor, attended the function, which was presided over by Mr Jean Valby, sole survivor of the original five "resurrectors" of La Chaine. At 77, Mr Valby still travels around the world to strengthen and expand the hallowed gourmet organisation.

La Chaine was founded in 1248 by the King of France "to provide a happy forum for lovers of wine and good food", but it disappeared—like many royal heads—in 1789. It was "resurrected" in 1975 and now has 50,000 members in many countries.

The Hong Kong dinner obviously impressed and delighted Mr Valby. The guests were entertained by a Hong Kong police band, and a series of live quails were wheeled in to accompany the first course of quail terrine. (The live quail were later safely returned home to the Hong Kong bird zoo.)

Mr Mayombo said that he did not expect any Communist Party opposition to the establishment of a "decadent" chapter of La Chaine in Peking. Only the Gang of Four would have tried to prohibit it, he said.

Floods disrupt west Sumatra communications

Jakarta, Nov 29.—Torrential rains throughout the week have flooded half of west Sumatra, knocking down several bridges, starting landslides and throwing transport into chaos, the Antara news agency reported today.

Damage was said to be heavy and hundreds of families have been evacuated to higher ground because of the rains, which have fallen steadily on the province since Sunday. The highway from Padang, the main port, to Kertajati in the south-east was reported blocked by two collapsed bridges and landslides. The road from Padang to Muara Bungo eastward was buried under mud. Landslides also were reported to have disrupted land communication from Bukittinggi, the capital, to Medan in north Sumatra.

OUR NEW SAVINGS BANK FOR ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS.

Every day more and more people are helping the British Glass Container Industry to save energy and raw materials. How?

By responding to a simple, but innovative, appeal by the industry to recycle bottles and jars.

It's called the Bottle Bank scheme. In only two years the industry has collected over 21 million used glass containers. Crushed them. Mixed them with other raw materials and re-melted them to make new glass containers. Making a considerable saving in raw materials and, more important, energy.

EVERYONE BENEFITS

The scheme directly benefits local authorities and their communities.

There is less waste to dispose of, giving a saving in costs and refuse tipping space.

And since the glassworks pay a guaranteed price for every tonne of glass returned to them, what used to cost local authorities money can now make them a profit. Which can be used to help buy kidney machines for the local hospital, or spent on other community projects.

In two years public response to "Save at the Bottle Bank" has developed into the regular habit of saving glass for thousands of people. In fact response has been so great that the glass industry, in co-operation with local authorities, is now expanding the scheme to 200 towns and cities.

Setting a target to recycle 150,000 tonnes of glass a year.

This will reduce the demand for virgin raw materials which, although plentiful in Britain, entails considerable quarrying activities.

But, more important, the use of recycled glass—or cullet as it is called—also reduces the fuel consumption of the glass-making furnaces.

So Britain saves 4,000,000 gallons of oil each year

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Bottle Bank scheme is one of the ways in which the glass industry is looking to the future. Important, but only a part of a major programme of investment.

For example: continuous research into glass melting technology has reduced average fuel consumption by 18% since 1970.

Lightweight bottles such as the daily "pinta," continue to be developed, using 25% less glass, but retaining all the strength of their predecessors. Helping to reduce material and energy requirements accordingly.

NEW ECONOMIC USES FOR CULLET

There will always be some parts of Britain which are too far away from the glassworks for recycling to be economical. So the industry has sponsored research into new uses for waste glass. As a result floor tiles and surfacing and cladding materials, containing 75% crushed glass, have been developed. Providing yet another outlet for people's empties. Proving that just because glass is inexpensive, that's no reason to waste it.

RECYCLABLE OR RETURNABLE

All glass can be recycled time and time again, without any quality loss.

But this is not to forget the returnable bottle which frequently offers great economy and efficient use of resources. Over 50% of packaged beer and soft drinks are sold in refillable deposit bottles. The daily doorstep delivery of milk owes its continued existence to the returnable glass bottle.

But by recycling the non-returnables, the glass container industry is saving raw materials, money, and energy.



BANK ON GLASS FOR THE FUTURE.

Glass Manufacturers Federation, 19 Portland Place, London W1N 4BH.

D.I.Y. POWER STATION

Don't be caught with your amps down.

Own your own portable power station.

A Honda E300 portable generator provides 300 Watts A/C electricity sufficient to keep most gas fired domestic central heating systems working.

Don't wait for power failures—see your Honda Dealer now or fill in the coupon for complete details including colourful leaflet on the Honda Generator Range.

HONDA GENERATORS

Please send me the name of my nearest dealer and full colour leaflet.

Name: _____

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HONDA (UK) LTD., Power Products Division, Power Road, Chiswick, London W4.

Appointments Vacant

An intellectual challenge for honours graduates

Opportunities in administration and non-technical research



GCHQ Cheltenham

Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham, carries out research, development and production in the field of communications and communications security including related computer applications.

The Trainee programme is designed to fit successful candidates for administration (i.e. policy-making, organisation and direction of the Department's activities) and for individual research work or the direction of staff engaged on such work.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates should normally be under 28 on 1 August 1980 and have (or obtain in 1980) a degree with honours, or a post-graduate degree, or a qualification of equivalent standing.

SALARY as a Government Communications Trainee starts between £4,200 and £5,325 (according to qualifications and experience) and rises to £5,700. Non-contributory pension scheme. Promotion prospects to £21,750 and above.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 23 January 1980) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: A3412.

MANAGER FILM SERVICES

Yorkshire Television has a vacancy for a **Manager, Film Services (male/female)** based at its studios in Leeds.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the entire film operation of the Company, which embraces all programme areas. This is an important appointment with a major independent television company, and the post carries a salary and fringe benefits commensurate with the position.

Applications in writing to: **Brian Harris**
Head of Management Services
Yorkshire Television Limited
The Television Centre
Leeds LS31JS



COMPANY SECRETARY/EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The S.E.T. Federation Ltd., which provides central administration and similar services to companies associated with the British Electric Traction Company Ltd., is seeking a suitably qualified person to assume the responsibilities of Company Secretary and Executive Officer at the Group's London Headquarters in Piccadilly.

In addition to statutory secretarial duties the person appointed will be responsible for the administration and provision of office services to the S.E.T. headquarters Executive staff and must therefore possess good commercial experience. He or she will also be required to act as Secretary of several Group Committees.

The Company offers interesting free season ticket loans, subsidised staff restaurant facilities, contributory pension scheme and membership of S.U.P.A. Salary will be in accordance with qualifications and experience.

Replies in confidence, giving full career details to:—
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
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Beautiful small hotel in Holland Park requires a...

RECEPTIONIST

with pleasant outlook and uncommonly good sense for full time position. Ideal opportunity for a woman with a...

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person urgently required for... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

REPRESENTATIVE

for U.K. with contacts on Midlands and... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

12+ for City commodities registration group... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The Queen's University of Belfast

LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited for a lectureship in law... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The University of Leeds

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited from... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

LECTURER

In the School of Education from... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

University of Cambridge

Applications invited for the... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

PROFESSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Applications invited for the... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

University of Cambridge

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PROFESSORSHIP OF MODERN HISTORY

Applications are invited for a... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, OXFORD

The Governors invite applications for the post of

VICE-PRINCIPAL/PRINCIPAL-DESIGNATE

of this Methodist College of higher education. The person selected will be appointed Vice-Principal on 1st September, 1980, or earlier if possible, with a view to becoming Principal towards the end of 1981.

Particulars of the post are available from the Clerk to the Governors, Westminster College, North Hinksey, Oxford OX2 9AT.

UNIST

University of Wales

PROFESSOR

PORT AND SHIPPING ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATION

Salary: above £11,180 (under review)

Requests (quoting ref. T) for details to Personnel Section (Academic) UNIST, Cardiff CF1 3NU. Closing date: 4 January, 1980.

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITY

Engineering or electrical graduates required by London-based Patent Agents to train as British Patent Agents and European Patent Attorneys. A Patent Agent uses his technical training in the legal field of Patents, Trade Marks and Copyright on a worldwide basis and as a European Patent Attorney before the European Patent Office in Munich. Facilities in German or French to this an advantage. The post would be particularly suitable for a recently qualified person with or without some industrial experience. Reply to: Box 9055 P, The Times.

EXHIBITIONS, GRAPHICS, INTERIORS

Recently Qualified Designers and Illustrators required for... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

JOHN M. SOLFORD

in the matter of the COMPANIES ACT 1947 in the County of... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

PEKZANCE SOLICITORS

seek young Solicitor for busy... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Cambridge

Local Examinations Syndicate

Applications are invited from... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The person appointed will act as... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

University of Cambridge

PROFESSORSHIP OF MODERN HISTORY

Applications are invited for a... (text continues with details of the role and requirements)

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MALE SECRETARY

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LEGAL NOTICES

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ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

ROYALTY THEATRE, 01-405 8004

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

SAVOY THEATRE, 01-856 0888

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From cars to health: it is time the public found out what really goes on

Why are we so secret about our secrets?

Official secrecy has much more to do with protecting the government from embarrassment than with the nation's security

The good news is that the Government has stood down the Protection of Official Information Bill, which had earned almost universal condemnation. But the worry now is what will replace it.

What is not sufficiently recognized is the huge area of public life which is currently concealed from the British public by the bureaucratic classification of relevant documents as "confidential" or "secret" which in no way can be justified as legitimate.

It is, of course, legitimate to protect documents which are concerned with national security, commercially sensitive data, individual privacy or the arrest and detention of persons suspected of crime.

But outside these areas what could, and should, be brought into the open so that the public begins to find out what is really going on?

One example of great interest to consumers, concerns government product testing. This is done on a large scale, and government departments have comparative performance data on a wide range of consumer goods; yet most is not

published, even though the public is paying for it.

Take one specific illustration: both Britain and the United States ban some food additives where safety tests are adverse. But whereas in the United States the test results are open to public inspection, in Britain the Ministry of Agriculture claims up even on data which has already been published by United Nations and other public sources.

Similarly, the removal of United Kingdom meat packing plants, after failing inspections, from approved lists of exporters to the United States is made known in the United States, but not in the United Kingdom.

Again, in Britain harbour masters and ships health officers keep their reports confidential so that the British public does not know which routes of food poisoning or gastroenteritis. But in America the disturbing deficiencies in hygiene standards of some British cruise liners are made known to American consumers and travel agents by health officers.

Many other examples from the consumer field can be given. In the area of transport, where safety issues may be a matter of life or death, the British public under the present "official secrets" regime are for some inexplicable reason denied relevant knowledge which is available to the authorities.

For example, what are the results of inspections, for incompetence or fraud, of registered MOT testing stations? What is the different safety record of cars, as revealed by

the road accident statistics, analyzed by make and model? What is the information contained in the background papers to public inquiries on motorway proposals? Which country councils have failed to publish draft traffic orders, as required under the 1973 Act, controlling lorries in the interests of amenity?

None of this is known, yet not only do there seem no justifiable grounds for concealment, there are surely very positive reasons why the public should know these things.

Many public bodies in Britain which report on matters closely affecting the health of the population either wholly or in part conceal relevant information. The Alkali Inspectorate withheld findings regarding fluoride poisoning. The Health and Safety Executive report on the safety of Canvey Island suppressed information on liquefied natural gas which local residents needed to assess whether they risked a holocaust like the Bantry Bay tanker explosion.

After major explosions caused by gas leaks, the Gas Board refuses to make available the findings which alone would prove liability or negligence, so adequate compensation is very rarely paid.

The full facts about the damage done to children's health by lead pollution near motorway intersections are not made public in Britain. British Leyland's and the Department of Transport's knowledge that design errors in the Austin Allegro had caused several fatal accidents, leading to a recall campaign which was kept secret (while further accidents occurred), only came to light when the BBC made a

documentary based on United States Freedom of Information data.

Public entitlement to know is denied even of the rules which regulate how the authorities should normally conduct themselves. Thus, the guidelines for the Government, entitled Questions of Procedure for Ministers—27 pages and 132 paragraphs long—is kept secret. Similarly, the Social Security "A" Code, 1,000 loose-leaf pages long, used by DHSS officials to administer supplementary benefit, is kept under wraps, instead of showing claimants exactly where they stand and avoiding unnecessary short-term hardship in some cases.

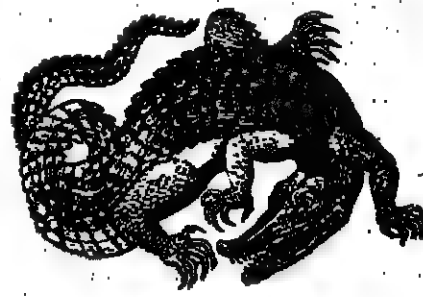
Official secrecy has much more to do with protecting the government of the day from embarrassment than with the nation's security. Such secrecy has grown, is still growing, and must be greatly cut back.

Michael Meacher

The author is Labour MP for Oldham, West. His private members' Bill, Freedom of Information, has its second reading today.

Philip Howard continues the series of new words and new meanings

Crocodiles never did shed tears



Enough crocodile tears have been shed during the past year to burst the banks of the Thames as well as the Limpopo. This increase in crocodilian misery may indicate that we are becoming more hypocritically malicious.

It certainly indicates that the cliché has become as indispensable to the language as white elephants and Cheshire cats. Our wits from Spenser and Shakespeare to Lewis Carroll have found the image for a false sympathizer, glowing while his tears splash, irresistible. At least, Bacon carved the cliché in a sentence: "It is the wisdom of crocodiles, that shed tears when they would devour."

A puzzling question, though, one not beyond all conjecture, is who invented the metaphor. Although their eyes have large, watery membranes, the crocodile does not blub. Herodotus, who visited Egypt at least once in the fifth century BC, reported delightfully about the

crocodile: "It has eyes like a pig's, great teeth, and tucks in its tail. It is the only animal that has no tongue. Nor does it move its lower jaw." And so on.

So curious an investigative reporter would surely not have been deceived by the crocodile if the fable had been current at the time. The geographer Strabo visited the Nile four centuries after Herodotus. He found a tame crocodile called Suchos like a creature escaped from Haggard's imagination. It had jewels in its ears, golden bangles on its feet, and a diet of sacrificial roast meat and cakes; but no tears.

As late as AD 355 the priests at Crocodopolis were leading their sacred crocodiles, but the pampered brutes still did not weep, even though monotheism in the shape of Christianity and then Islam was about to end their sort life. There is then a gap of nearly

a thousand years. Erasmus referred to crocodile tears. An early reference in English is in Thomas Cooper's Latin-English thesaurus of 1548: "A proverb, applied unto them, which having another man, whom they would destroy, have destroyed, they will seem to be sorry for him."

Crocodile tears were known to Bartholomaeus Anglicus, a Franciscan who taught in Paris around 1225. In his encyclopedia he wrote: "If the crocodile findeth a man by the

brim of the water, or by the cliff, he slayeth him if he may, and then he weepeth upon him and swalloweth him at last." Bartholomew's story was repeated in Mandeville's Travels, written at Liège in 1357 by an unknown author who had probably never left Europe. This was a best-seller with the non-travelling public, who broadened their minds by staying at home and reading the equivalent of the colour magazines of the day on the subject of exotic marvels.

Learned crocodile-watchers have so far been unable to trace a reference earlier than Bartholomew's to the fable of the crocodile weeping, either to all a man for the purpose of weeping him, or while eating him. The best guess is that a monk in the Dark Ages invented the fable with an improving moral to adorn his bestiary.

The old words with an old meaning have lasted well and become a valuable cliché for saying something neatly that could not be said otherwise, without circumlocution. There are tears in the old croc yet.

The ancient logical puzzle called the crocodile and the philosopher, which was a child's mother screams, Crocodile, speaking with mouth full: "I will give it back, if you tell me the truth. Mother, cunningly: 'You will not give me back my child.' Conundrum: it is the duty of the crocodile to give back the child."

Who is backing the assisted places scheme?

few, if any, of the Government's education proposals have provoked such widespread opposition as its proposal to subsidize independent school fees for less well-off children.

All the teachers' unions and head teachers' associations are passionately against the scheme; the majority of chief education officers are opposed; local authorities—in many cases where they are Tory controlled—deplore it; a number of top independent schools believe it will do them more harm than good; several "conservative" MPs, including front-benchers, are thoroughly embarrassed by it; and even Mr Mark Carleton, the Education Secretary, appears to have his doubts.

Most of the 119 former direct grant schools, which were independent in 1976, rather than being forced to go comprehensive, are not surpris-

ingly in favour of the scheme. It was the Direct Grant Joint Committee which first put forward the idea of a government sponsored assisted places scheme in 1972. The proposal was rejected by Mrs Thatcher, the Education Minister of the day. The Prime Minister is now the strongest supporter of the new assisted places scheme.

Under the new scheme the Government intends to help pay the independent school fees of 80,000 to 100,000 bright children from "poor" families—how poor, and indeed how bright they have to be to be eligible, we have yet to learn. The scheme is expected to cost about £6m in the first year (which the Government hopes will be 1981) rising to £55m at current prices, when it is fully operational.

It was not the best moment to propose such a scheme, and the Government's promise that

the new funds for the private sector will not be taken out of the state education budget has been greeted with suspicion. Local authorities, still smarting from the latest round of cuts proposed for state schools, fear worse to come.

How they would like an extra £55m. It would, for example, pay for an extra maths and an extra science teacher at an above average salary in every state secondary school in England and Wales. Or it would pay for 100,000 more nursery school places, or double the present provision of school books, or enable the universities to write off the government "subsidy" for overseas students and so prevent the free increases now proposed.

But money is not the only issue. Local authorities are appalled at the prospect of seeing their brightest and best creamed off, and by the Government's apparent lack of faith in the state system. The headmaster of a voluntary aided grammar school which is reluctantly considering going independent for fear of being forced to go comprehensive, asks: "Why can't the Government stimulate academic education within the remaining grammar schools? It's up to the state to support its own sector, not to subsidize the

independent sector. Why can't we compete against the independent schools?"

There are 265 grammar schools left in England and Wales. They cater for about 5 per cent of secondary school pupils, slightly less than the proportion in independent schools. Those authorities which fought hard to keep their grammar schools will be relieved to learn that Mr Mark Carleton is now thinking of avoiding setting up assisted places schools within grammar school catchment areas.

The scheme is still in the drafting stage. Provision is included in the Education Bill, now in its committee stage, for such a scheme to be set up, but most of the details, decisions on eligibility, selection, schools to be involved, size of grant paid and so on, are to be left to the discretion of the Secretary of State.

The sum of £55m, which is not in the Bill but was mentioned by Mr Carleton in connection with the Government's public expenditure plans, is based on the assumption that 2,000 to 25,000 pupils a year will be receiving average means-tested grants of £500 for the duration of their schooling, with allowances made for inflation.

Average tuition fees of the former direct-grant schools

which are now independent, are around £800 to £1,000. Mr Carleton is unlikely to accept a trump card which will enable them to be reimbursed on a percentage basis, that is, they will be assessed for a grant of, say, 60 per cent of the total fee, whatever the size of fee charged. Some pupils will have all their fees paid. Others will receive no subsidy.

The Secretary of State will have the power to veto any fee increase proposed by a school within the assisted places scheme. He will also have the right to see its annual audited accounts, to lay down guidelines for its method of selecting pupils, and to check its academic standards. Failure to maintain standards may mean removal from the scheme.

The number of assisted places offered by any school will depend on Mr Carleton's estimation of need in the area. At some schools, all pupils may be eligible to apply for assistance, while at others there may be as few as 10 assisted places each year. Parents who wish to apply for an assisted place will have to apply on their own initiative, direct to the school in question. The entrance examination will be set by the school. This is bound to favour middle-class families.

The age of entry to the

scheme will be flexible. The Government is acutely aware of the special need for such places in minority subjects in some areas, and is certain to want to make provision for that where state schools are unable to cope.

A letter is to be sent to every independent secondary school by the Department of Education, asking them to consider the next two weeks outlining the scheme and asking schools whether they would be interested, in principle, in participating. Details of examination results and course provision are requested. Copies of the letter are being sent to education authorities who will be asked if voluntary-aided schools might also be interested. Some two dozen voluntary-aided schools are already considering joining independent and applying for the scheme.

The Government is not unaware of the opposition to its scheme. But it or at least Mrs Thatcher believes that it holds a trump card which will enable it to emerge victorious—the support of the very people for whom the scheme is principally designed, the parents. Every parent believes they might have a bright child.

Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

"For £5, share the good life this Christmas with the old and lonely."

Richard Briers



To thousands of old people Christmas means the usual cheerless chilly room, with no-one to talk to and not enough to eat. In hunger-stricken places overseas one meagre meal a day is all some old people get—so disease threatens. No one makes your money do more than Help the Aged—thanks to volunteers, so send a goodwill gift now. And share your Christmas cheer.

£30 does a lot toward setting up another British Day Centre, bringing companionship and warmth to the lonely.

£5 provides 25 good nourishing meals for old people near starvation overseas.

£150 perpetuates a loved name on the dedication plaque of a Day Centre and helps many old people.

Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 76, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ (no stamp needed).

Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Getting around underground

Tomorrow will be a red letter day for commuters in the Virginia suburbs where I live. For on that day the latest section of the Washington area's magnificent underground railway system, known as Metro, will open for business. The new three-mile route will link up with the rest of the 30-mile system and clip about 20 minutes off the present rush-hour bus or car trip to the city.

The event, which will be celebrated by a day of free rides and other promotional hoopla, has been eagerly awaited by local businesses and shops who expect to benefit financially from the new attraction. A neighbour, who owns a small cafe within a few steps of one of the new stations, has been licking his lips with expectation for months. Home owners, too, have seen the value of their property rise in leaps and bounds.

Indeed, the only people who have any objections at all are those who live very close to the station at the end of the new line and are worried about an influx of buses and cars.

I am in the fortunate position of living far enough away from the station to avoid traffic snarl-ups but close enough to reach it quickly by car. My wife has already been cooped up in Washingtonians' quaintly called "a kiss and run" driver—wives who ferry their

husbands to the nearest Metro departure point and drop them off with a quick embrace before returning home.

The opening of the new line will mark the completion of exactly a third of the full underground network of 100 miles of track which will eventually cover most of the inner suburban area. As each section is opened, buses are rerouted to the new stations to avoid duplication of passenger service.

Since the first line was opened some three-and-a-half years ago, over the opposition of various groups who argued that the system would be an extravagant white elephant, it has been highly successful in attracting passengers. The petrol shortages this summer, which sharply increased the use of public transport, persuaded the last of the sceptics that in Metro the city has the beginning of a highly valuable asset.

Carpets and computers

Visitors to Washington, who have experienced the superior of underground systems in New York, Paris or London are always very impressed with most of the features of Metro. The stations are spacious and functional, the trains carpeted and smooth-running, and crime and litter virtually non-existent. The whole system is ceaselessly patrolled by guards who ward off muggers and make sure that nobody smokes or drops litter. As might be expected in the land of advanced technology,

everything works by computer and after initial teething problems trains now usually run on time. There was a time when trains were constantly delayed by brake failures but the faulty components have gradually been replaced.

The complete automation of the system does occasionally cause embarrassment for the Metro authorities. A few weeks ago, for example, a driver left his cab briefly to inspect an empty train on a siding without telling the computer. To his consternation, he turned round to see his train, full of passengers, disappearing into the distance with no one at the helm.

The train duly stopped at all the stations, but the doors did not open as they are operated manually by the driver. It was finally brought to a halt by an enterprising woman passenger who had the presence of mind to open the locked door to the driver's cab with a hair-pin and press the emergency halt button.

The only important gaffe by the organizers of Metro was the complete closure of the system after a blizzard which struck the Washington area last winter. No one had had the foresight to realize that before a heavy snowstorm trains should not be left in their sheds above ground but placed at strategic points underground where they are protected from the elements. This is why the New York subway system has never suffered a similar shutdown.

In the event it took two full days for the tracks between the

Splendid news, Hampshire, you should get a clearer run to Wiltshire.



sheds and the tunnels to be cleared of snow. A chastened board of Metro officials has promised that it will listen more attentively to weather forecasts this winter. One problem, which still has to be resolved, is a simplification of the complicated fare structure which depends on when and how far you are travelling and whether or not you intend to complete your journey by bus. Regular commuters mastered the intricacies of the different fares long ago, but occasional travellers and visitors to the city find the

tariff system almost impossible to unravel without some assistance. You can always tell when the tourist season has opened by the sudden appearance of small groups of puzzled faces at station entrances. Their plight is aggravated by the shortage of staff to answer questions—even at the larger stations. Machines do all the work they collect fares and issue tickets, they let you into the station and they let you leave provided you have paid the correct fare. If not they tell you to go to yet another machine to pay a surcharge.

Drawbacks

The complete reliance on technology has other drawbacks. The mechanism of the various machines are so complex that they break down with amazing regularity. This is infuriating when you are in a hurry because long queues form to use those that are still functioning properly.

Conscious of this recurring problem, Metro officials tend to panic whenever they think that exceptionally large crowds of passengers may overburden the system. The last time this happened was last month when the Pope was due to hold an open-air Mass on the Mall, a huge grassy area between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. As many as one million visitors were expected, and fearing complete chaos at the most popular stations, the Metro board decided to give all the machines a day off and let passengers simply throw a flar 50

cents (about 25p) fare into collection boxes. In the event the whole exercise was a waste of time because the Mass attracted fewer people than expected. Many would-be worshippers apparently stayed at home to watch the Mass on television because they believed the advance publicity put out by Metro officials about the expected crush on the trains was a hoax.

By now the authorities, like public transport organizations the world over, have become accustomed to getting more than their fair share of blame for shortcomings in the system. But they could well have done much to avert the scandal which at present is causing them considerable embarrassment.

It appears that a number of Metro employees may have accepted bribes while bidding was under way for the supply of farecard machines for the new underground. These bulky pieces of equipment issue computerized tickets in return for banknotes or coins. Each time they are used the correct fare is deducted from the original amount fed into the machine until there is nothing left.

The revelations by the ever-watchful Washington Post of Watergate fame are particularly galling, for the Metro board because the farecard machines have never been popular with the travelling public. Of all the pieces of equipment they are the most prone to breakdown. The last thing Metro officials needed was a scandal involving their purchases.

David Cross

Geoffrey Smith

Why the Labour Party is close to a split

It is now a week since Mr Roy Jenkins delivered his Dimbleby Lecture. Do the reactions suggest that his call for a strengthening of the radical centre will remain in the memory simply as another interesting critique of the British political condition, elegant but impotent? Or will it start something?

The key question about a new grouping of the centre-left is whether anything credible of that nature will ever be put on offer to the electorate.

This could come about through the advance of the liberal side and the retreat of the radical side. The latter would be serious contenders for power. They are now well placed for another of their periodic upsurges, and if by-elections occur in the right places they could fairly soon have more MPs than at any time in the postwar years.

But those who look for a strengthening of the radical centre are generally thinking of some kind of partnership between the Liberals and Labour's right wing. Perhaps a new political party might suddenly emerge; or, far more likely, a much looser relationship might develop. But there are two basic requirements for even this to happen: the Liberals would have to be willing and Labour would have to split.

For the moment the Liberals are playing hard to get. The difficulty for them is that in any breakaway from the established Labour Party there might be too few or too many social democrats. Too few would not be worth cooperating with. Any collaboration of this sort involves organizational compromises and a certain blurring of identity; and Liberals and Labour remember somewhat acutely what they regard as the wasted effort of cooperating with Mr Dick Tavener.

But if too many social democrats broke away then the Liberals might feel that they were swamped. Would 50 social democrats be worth a party with only 13 MPs?

So the Liberals are concentrating on building up their own strength. It is even said that there could be an electoral pact only with those who would agree to take the Liberal wing of the Party out of the main voting area. Liberals hold their own, such an idea would be absurd. But it would be realistic in those circumstances to look for consultations and a loose, parliamentary partnership out of which something more might grow in time.

An electoral pact itself should not present too many difficulties: there are few seats which the Liberals hold, or have a serious chance of winning, where Labour is the principal opponent.

So what about the other condition? Is the evidence suggests that however little the feeling there may be in the party of compassion, Labour can hold together despite all strains. Loyalty, lethargy and ambition all point in that direction.

There is no chance of an immediate break, and the worse Mrs Thatcher does the less likely it will be. Most right-wingers have no wish to go off elsewhere. But there is now a greater possibility than ever before of a split by the end of this Parliament.

Even somebody like Mr William Rodgers, who has always maintained very strongly that the social democrats must fight their battle within the Labour Party, will indicate

in a speech at Aberlory tonight that he now recognizes that a split could occur by this time next year.

There are some others whose attitude is more emphatic and who look forward to a break with a mixture of hope and expectation. Others again consider such a prospect with the greatest reluctance, but fear that it might ultimately come to that.

There is an element of calculation in some of these predictions. A number of right-wingers believe that their chances of winning the battle within the party would be greater if it was thought that they might leave; the left, it is reckoned, would know that they could not win an election on their own—though there was not much sign of compromise from the left on Wednesday when the NEC refused to add another MP to the party's committee of inquiry.

But while there are varying opinions on the right as to how the left might best be countered, there is in general a broad consensus on the wing of the party than ever before. There is no great confidence that the left can be defeated whatever tactics are employed.

This does not mean that a split is almost inevitable. The left might not triumph, despite the pessimists. Even if it does, there could just as easily be a slow haemorrhage from the right as one by one its members drifted out of politics. Something of the sort has started already, with the departure of Mr David Marquand and Mr Brian Walden, and indeed of Mr Jenkins himself to Brussels.

Practical politicians who intend to remain in politics will always be very reluctant to break away from their party. Few of them will be induced to do so by any intellectual analysis, no matter how distinguished. They would need almost to be propelled out by the pressure of events and to feel that they had a reasonable chance of making it elsewhere.

If the Liberals were winning a few elections they would raise hopes of electoral survival outside the Labour Party. If money were seen to be freely available that would lay at rest another anxiety for potential schismatics. One may guess that financing a social democratic party would not prove too much of a problem, but it is curious that in the course of the Lib-Lab pact the Liberals did not press at all for the public financing of political parties—the more effective single step they could have taken to facilitate the realignment they were seeking.

But the decisive factor will be whether any apparent triumph for the left is accompanied by big bag, snarls, this might come from the left wing on the constitutional questions at next year's party conference. Perhaps it might come if the left used any new system for choosing the party leader, or if a new system for electing the party leader was introduced. Perhaps it might come if the left introduced a new system for electing the party leader, or if a new system for electing the party leader was introduced. Perhaps it might come if the left introduced a new system for electing the party leader, or if a new system for electing the party leader was introduced.

But there will be a significant split in the Labour Party only if there is an explosion that blows aside the bonds of sentiment and habit, and drives out the hope that the right might recover control of the party from inside.

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Nov 19. Dealings End, Dec 7. § Contango Day, Dec 19. Settlement Day, Dec 1
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Foord
surveyors

Carter rescue plan for Chrysler is rejected

From Frank Vogl
United States Economics
Correspondent

Washington, Nov 29
The Chrysler Corporation's survival prospects became bleaker today. The banking committee of the Senate bluntly rejected the Carter Administration's Chrysler rescue plan and proposed a much tougher plan, one that may prove to be unworkable.

The committee voted 10 to five to kill the plan that envisaged granting \$1,500m (about £750m) of Federal loan guarantees to Chrysler so long as the company obtained \$1,500m of additional loans from the private sector.

Today the committee insisted that Chrysler employees accept a temporary wage freeze, that Chrysler secure \$2,800m (£1,280m) of private loans and that Federal government loan guarantees be limited to \$1,250m.

It is questionable whether Chrysler can obtain more than \$1,500m from its bankers and even more unlikely that it will succeed in negotiating new wage contracts.

Difficult compromises also will have to be struck on Capitol Hill as the House banking committee has already voted in favour of the Administration's plan.

As Congress nears the point where key decisions have to be taken, it appears that broad philosophical questions are swiftly fading into the background.

It seems as if most members of Congress consider Chrysler's plight an important and top priority (it is the nation's tenth biggest manufacturer) to allow it to sink solely because free enterprise doctrine argues against government assistance to ailing companies.

Much more important and more controversial is the question of whether Chrysler can ever become profitable. One senator said that he believed "giving Chrysler cash is simply pouring money down the drain".

In its presentations to Congress the company has asserted that it can return to profitability within three years and reach a position where it can repay all loans. Chrysler has, in fact, been suggesting that the cash flow problem that it has

is something its planning will overcome by 1982.

Chrysler lost \$721.5m in the first nine months of this year and it expects to lose \$1,073m for all of 1979 and \$482m in 1980.

For the next five years Chrysler plans investments of \$13,500m to produce a brand new model range. The company's cash needs over the next three years—needs it says that can only be met, at least in part, by the government—amount to a minimum of \$2,100m.

All manner of profit projections for Chrysler are being heard on Capitol Hill and quite a number of people believe it is too optimistic to suggest Chrysler will be profitable within three years, especially as the recession bites and leads to reduced United States car sales in the next two years.

Data resources, for example, now sees new car sales of 9.8 million for 1980 and 10 million for 1981, compared to some past years of well over 11 million units.

For Congressmen the other key question revolves on the costs of allowing Chrysler to go bankrupt. These fall into four prime categories: the effect on competition in the American car market, the budget and national economic effect, the regional economic effects and the balance of payments implications.

United States Treasury experts believe that foreign car-makers might be able to obtain 250,000 additional car sales here in the next two years if Chrysler closes and that this would amount to a balance of payments deterioration of about \$1,000m.

Chrysler's unit sales are less than one half those of Ford and about one fifth of General Motors and there is concern among some Congressmen that General Motors and Ford already have too much market power and that the demise of Chrysler would increase monopolistic dangers.

Tremendous lobbying is taking place on Capitol Hill, by Michigan state and Detroit city officials, who fear that if Chrysler closes it will mean an increase in Detroit unemployment of at least 80,000 or 4 per cent of the total work force.

Iran moves to free assets held in London with legal action against US banks

By Ronald Pollen
Banking Correspondent

The Iranian central bank was last night understood to have started legal action against several of the London branches of big United States banks.

Writs have been served to unblock assets held in London which were frozen as a result of President Carter's move a fortnight ago to step up the pressure on Iran to release the Tehran hostages and to prevent Iran withdrawing funds from American banks.

International bankers have come to question increasingly the legality of the United States decision to extend the freeze

on Iranian assets to the overseas branches of its banks.

Banking authorities in most European financial centres have made it clear that they regard the question as one for the courts to decide and it now appears as though Bank Markazi, the central bank, has set the ball rolling for a series of complicated legal actions.

Much of Iran's troubles with international bankers have stemmed from the blocking of a half-yearly interest payment on a \$500m (about £250m) loan organized by Chase Manhattan.

Bank Markazi has already argued that the payment was made in time and it was due to the Carter freeze that the

money was not transferred to London to meet the payment.

Meanwhile, there have been reports from the United States that European and Japanese banks have been told that unless they toe the strong United States line over Iran, they cannot expect to be included in any share-out of frozen Iranian deposits.

Chase Manhattan has also asked for a meeting with the other banks involved in the \$500m loan to the Iran government for a meeting to discuss what action they should take next.

Following Morgan Guaranty's move on Tuesday to seize Iran's 25 per cent holding in Fried-

Krupp and its interests in Deutsche Babcock, the West German government has made clear it regards it as a civil matter and has no plans to intervene.

The United States Treasury also announced yesterday that it had made a number of technical modifications to the regulations governing the freeze on Iranian assets.

Licences will now be made available to allow payments from blocked funds to be made to American exporters up to \$500,000 who held unconfirmed letters of credit issued before the freeze and who had shipped goods to Iran before the freeze.

Spending cuts forced on British shipbuilders

By Peter Hill

British Shipbuilders is in danger of exceeding Government-set financial limits, and the loss-making state corporation has been forced to embark on a tough economy drive.

Forecasts of expenditure in the present financial year have revealed that the corporation will overspend unless it takes action to get its cash requirements under control.

In its first financial year (1977-78) BS lost £108m. Last year the loss was £49.5m—£4.5m more than the limit set by the Government. The loss limit has been set at £100m for the financial year to March 31 next after taking into account subsidies from the £65m intervention fund, which is designed to bridge the gap between United Kingdom shipbuilding costs and the low prices prevalent in the world market.

On average the cost of building a ship in Britain is about 30 per cent more than the price secured by BS in the market. The subsidy is limited to 23 per cent of contract price, and the difference has to be made up by greater efficiency.

The Government has set a loss limit for 1980-81 of £90m before intervention fund subsidies. Also it has allocated a reduced sum of £55m for subsidies, and the corporation fears that the European Commission may seek to impose further restrictions beyond the end of next year.

Mr Philip Haros, managing director of finance at BS, said yesterday: "If we are to use our maximum £55m shipbuilding subsidy next year we shall be allowed to make a trading loss of only £35m, which is considerably less than the losses made in earlier years. This will be very difficult to achieve."

Mr Haros gave a warning that the corporation, failing to live within the limits and to secure fresh orders further cuts in the industry's capacity would be necessary, with a loss of jobs.

Already BS has switched about 7,000 workers from merchant shipbuilding to naval yards and offshore construction and has set a target of 45 average ship orders over the next two years.

Union leaders last month submitted a claim to raise minimum earnings from £20 to £10 a week, coupled with shorter working hours and longer holidays. However, they are fully aware that the tight cash restraints will hamper the corporation in the talks which will be continued next month.

Mr Miller defends US freeze

By David Blake

Mr William Miller, United States Treasury Secretary, yesterday defended the American government's decision to freeze Iranian assets and said the Arab nations he had been visiting were still convinced that the dollar remained a good asset.

Speaking at a press conference in London, on his way back to Washington after a trip to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait he also came close to endorsing Saudi criticism of oil companies for making excessive profits.

Mr Miller conceded that leaders of the three countries, who are the major earners of oil, were concerned over the American decision to freeze Iranian assets held in United States banks. But he said that after discussions, the Arab nations had understood that the deficit was not a desirable asset that it had been. He did not specify the factors making it more attractive.

The Treasury Secretary compared the seizure of assets with that taken in 1940 by the United States in blocking the bank accounts of Denmark and Norway after the German invasion. He also drew parallels with British action in blocking



Mr William Miller, United States Treasury Secretary, at yesterday's press conference.

that Sir Geoffrey understood the need to act. The United States did not foresee any conflict with its partners in Europe, and any problems over who had jurisdiction over American bank branches abroad would be resolved under international law.

Mr Miller added that Arab leaders had told him that in some ways the dollar was now a more desirable asset than it had been. He did not specify the factors making it more attractive.

The Treasury Secretary compared the seizure of assets with that taken in 1940 by the United States in blocking the bank accounts of Denmark and Norway after the German invasion. He also drew parallels with British action in blocking

Rhodesian funds, and with actions in 1956, which he did not cite in detail but which presumably referred to the Suez crisis. "There should be international support for this kind of action which discourages, and makes unprofitable, acts of terrorism," he said.

Turning to broader questions of relations with oil-producing countries, Mr Miller said he had a fuller understanding of Saudi complaints that their moderation in setting prices had led to huge profits for the oil companies rather than lower prices for the consumer. Saudi Arabia has been charging only \$18 a barrel for its oil—far below the market price. In addition it has been producing more oil this year to make up for the shortage caused by the disruption in Iran.

Mr Miller said the Saudis had been selling the cheaper crude in world markets and pocketing the profits for themselves. They felt that this amounted to large windfall profits for the oil companies and they wanted action, perhaps in the form of some sort of windfall profits tax.

He repeated previous assurances from oil-producing countries on their willingness to maintain production at its current high level for part of next year. But he added that he was saying nothing new and gave a warning that Opec countries would not be prepared to go on indefinitely producing faster than was in their interest just because the West failed to economize.

BNOC may sell to private outlets

By Nicholas Hirst

Talks which could lead to the state-owned British National Oil Corporation selling and oil products to independent United Kingdom retailers are under way with the Department of Energy.

The outcome will depend on how BNOC is to be reorganised. After the Conservatives came to power the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr David Howell, said the public were to be allowed to invest in the exploration side of BNOC, but that the trading arm, which has rights to more than 50 per cent of all the oil produced in the North Sea, would remain wholly under state control. A state-owned trading group, and it could refine and sell to petrol retailers.

There are considerable attractions to a Conservative government in such a scheme. British independents, who have to buy

most of their supplies on the expensive "spot" markets, are particularly hurt by shortages. A guaranteed contract supply from BNOC would be a financial lifeline.

The BNOC management is set against having the company split up, but may still wish to fund accumulated revenue already sells fuel oil to the electricity generating boards in a deal by which it provides an equal amount of crude to refiners. This arrangement skates very close to constraints put on the present organisation by law—it needs the specific permission of the Secretary of State before carrying on downstream activities.

Nevertheless, BNOC has considered extending these deals and the obvious recipients would be the independents.

There are two plans. The first allows the exploration arm to remain a subsidiary of the trading company. If this happened, it is thought the exploration subsidiary would have to supply all of its oil for sale to the trading arm, as it is done today. But if the exploration group was floated off as a completely separate entity, it is thought it could then become a fully integrated oil company with downstream activities. It could act like any other North Sea group and would need only a statutory 51 per cent "participation" element of its production to the state-owned trading group, and it could refine and sell to petrol retailers.

There are considerable attractions to a Conservative government in such a scheme. British independents, who have to buy

most of their supplies on the expensive "spot" markets, are particularly hurt by shortages. A guaranteed contract supply from BNOC would be a financial lifeline.

Japanese to penalize oil speculators

Tokyo, Nov 29.—The Japanese

trade ministry has announced plans to penalize domestic oil firms which buy oil on the spot market at prices above the Rotterdam market level by making them sell it at a loss.

Several Japanese companies have recently bought spot oil at prices above the Rotterdam level of about \$39 a barrel, the ministry said, without naming the companies involved. The ministry will make these

companies sell the oil to domestic users at current Rotterdam prices, which means they could lose about \$3 or \$4 a barrel.

Government officials said the ministry had warned several domestic companies not to contract to buy spot oil at prices above the official Japanese guideline.

The government said last week that Japanese companies should buy at prices slightly below the top spot market price, but did not give an exact guideline. Officials said the ministry had not yet taken disciplinary action.

They confirmed that some "high price" import arrangements had been made by traders, but declined to disclose whether it involved Iranian crude, made surplus by the cutting off of exports from Iran to the United States. They did not say how much oil had been purchased at the high prices. —Reuters

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Thousands of jobs may go as BSC loss tops £145m

Continued from page 1

The board is still striving to break even at an early date. The Government will not extend the corporation's cash limits nor will it be prepared, as it has already stated, to fund accumulated revenue losses beyond the end of next March.

Remedial action is vital. The corporation's strategy is aimed at securing a return to profitability: bringing capacity into line with lower demand; and improving productivity and reducing cost increases.

Some 15,000 jobs are to be phased out under present closure plans and more are

bound to follow. It now seems that major reorganization of the corporation will be set in train.

Part of this will certainly include the talks taking place with GKN. In a joint statement both sides confirmed yesterday's report in *The Times*, that they were discussing plans for joint operations in areas where their interests overlapped.

The Department of Industry and the Treasury are supporting continued joint studies although government consent would be necessary if an eventual agreement is reached.

News analysis, page 23

Tap stock sells well

The gilt edged market was speculating last night that supplies of the Government's latest short/medium stock, Exchequer 15 per cent 1985, may be exhausted this morning. Jobbers were expected to bid for the rump of the stock at 98½.

£30m airline order

Four McDonnell Douglas DC9 Super 82 airliners have been ordered by a new Manchester-based airline, Air Transcontinental, in a deal worth over £20m. AT is being backed by funds from the Middle East and is offering 250,000 package holiday seats on the market for 1980.

ENGLISH & OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS LTD.

INTERIM RESULTS FOR HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1979 (Unaudited)

	Half Year 30th September 1979	Half Year 30th September 1978	Year to 31st March 1979
Group Turnover	£3,983,000	£3,488,000	£7,691,000
Pre-Tax Profit	£178,888	£252,792	£549,123
Taxation	£18,303	—	£143,336
Extraordinary Item	£169,595	£252,792	£406,787
Expenses of Loan	£52,299	—	—
Profit attributable to Shareholders	£107,296	£252,792	£406,787
Earnings per share	1.55p	2.46p	3.94p
Dividend per share	0.4375p	0.39p	0.875p

The results for the six months were effected in the case of Matellan by the after effects of the engineering strike, and in the case of Athena by the fall-off in retail sales in July, August and September and the Board is taking a very cautious view of 1980, and does not expect the profits for the current year to be in excess of those for last year.

With a view to the equalisation of interim and final dividends, an interim dividend for 1979/80 of 0.4375p per share has been declared payable on 18th February, 1980 to members on the register on 21st January, 1980.

PRICE CHANGES

Bank	5p to 405p	GI Univ Stores	14p to 362p
Bank	2p to 221p	Imperial Grp	14p to 230p
Bank	4p to 52p	South Africa Rd	11p to 180p
Bank	1p to 143p	ML Bldg	15p to 200p
Bank	3p to 131p	Yrenoh Mlles	15p to 200p
Bank	5p to 375p	Hoechst	10p to 330p
Bank	4p to 58p	Lamco	7p to 330p
Bank	2p to 62p	Oil Exploration	4p to 640p
Bank	1p to 17p	Ranwick Grp	4p to 312p
Bank	1p to 35p	Thorn	4p to 312p

THE POUND

Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95
Bank	2.01	Bank	1.95

Study shows that exemptions, deductions, penalties are out of date

Taxing the traditions of the Inland Revenue

Like the mills of God, those of the Inland Revenue grind slowly, though they grind small. It is the contention of Mr Halmar Hudson, partner of City accountants Robson Rhodes, that what they are grinding with is all too often "figures carved in stone".

This is the title of Mr Hudson's latest investigation into the weight and moment of the figures contained in the tax acts and still in force. It is a fascinating compendium of information, though useful only in that it casts a curious light upon the muddled recesses of the Revenue's collective consciousness.

What Mr Hudson has set out to do—last time for only the three principal taxes (income, corporation, and capital gains), but this time for all seven "un-

holy sisters" (the others are stamp duty, VAT, capital transfer tax and development land)—is to discover when last the figures to which all taxpayers two duty were changed, and what would be their present value.

Of the 293 figures—for reliefs, exemptions, deductions, fines, rewards and adjustments—with which taxpayers are likely to be afflicted, 195 have never been changed since their enactment. Of course, a very large number have been enacted only relatively recently, like the present £25,000 limit on mortgage interest relief, which came into force in 1974 and is now worth half of what it was then.

But there are some much more elderly, not to say venerable, anachronisms like the £100 penalty for failure to

notify a liability to tax, which came into force in 1842. Updated to allow for the fall in the value of the pound, that fine would now be worth £1,847. They took their tax evaders seriously in those days.

Then there is Mr Hudson's able eye on income tax appeal from the Commissioners to the High Court. That fee first came into force in 1880, as a measure designed to deter the venacious litigant: one would have thought that these days it is redundant.

Mr Hudson, who is a founder member of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, is to circulate his paper to members of the Government and civil servants in the hope of inducing some sort of review, however piecemeal. He has not worked out the net advantage, to taxpayers

or Revenue, from moves to bring the figures up to date, but he points out that those of us who are law-abiding would undoubtedly gain were there deterrent fines to be imposed on those of lower moral fibre.

Whether anyone would welcome an updating of the rewards to informants is another matter. As brought into force in 1890, the reward for informing on an income tax dodger is all of £50, a tidy sum in those days. Updated, it would be worth £524.

The Inland Revenue has powers enough to do without that. It could take for its theme another carving on stone: "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: look on my works, ye mighty, and despair..."

Adrienne Gleeson

Dividend payments by companies

From Professor G. H. Lawson
Sir, In his timely article (November 27) Hugh Stephenson puts his finger on a matter of the utmost public concern.

His guess that more companies paid out too much in dividends than paid out too little is wholly borne out by the facts. He is also correct in implying that pay-out arithmetic needs to be based on money that is available on a permanent basis for distribution as interest, taxes and dividends that is upon a cash flow earnings concept.

As an analysis of officially published data shows, the average annual dividends of United Kingdom listed manufacturing companies for the 24-year period 1954-77 were 11 times greater than their average post-tax flow earnings before charging interest. The resultant deficits were financed by lenders.

This scale of debt-equity substitution has caused an enormous decline in real equity

values and has not been offset by a commensurate increase in the market value of debt. Reflecting this real decline in total market value, the real return on trading assets has been negative in recent years and not 4.5 per cent as the Bank of England would have us believe.

In indicting the institutions for collectively pressurizing companies into the payment of dividends in excess of equity earnings, Mr Stephenson could also have questioned the general financial nous of some of the larger company directors. Not only has Coats Patons over distributed over the past 18 years, so too have John Brown, Dunlop, EMI and Blue Circle, to name but a few. John Brown and EMI aside, the real decline in the total equity market value of these companies has been terrifying. While Mr Stephenson is undoubtedly right in having a go at the institutional investors, one is also entitled to ask whether the firm managers of (say) ICI will things right the next round.

Mr Stephenson's reiteration of the new conventional wisdom on the corporate tax bite needs to be qualified. It is the case that the 1974 appreciation reliefs roughly eliminated the effect of inflation on taxable earnings. While it is true that the effective rate of tax on corporate cash flows has fallen, rate is still well above 10 per cent nominal rate. I over, such appreciation reliefs eliminates in a most vicious manner, against manufacturing companies but for Tesco-type firms.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD H. LAWSON
Professor of Business Fin.
Manchester Business School
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL.

Better communications in business

From Lord Wilson of High Wycombe
Sir, On Wednesday November 21 Lord Kings Norton introduced a short debate in the House of Lords on the title "Deterioration in the use of the English language". It was reported in *The Times* the following day and I received a copy of *Hansard* containing a full transcript on November 23.

It had been my intention to take part in this debate, but I was prevented due to causes beyond my control. This was probably just as well, as there were nineteen speakers, some of whom naturally over ran their time. The debate covered a wide range, with Peers referring to their own pet aversions and the expected brickbats being flung at the BBC and the introduction of American words and phrases into our language.

I was surprised, on reading *Hansard*, to find that whereas usually when I prepare a speech I have to cross off point after point as earlier speakers make them, the main material I had decided to refer to was hardly mentioned and may justify a place in your correspondence columns. This is the necessity for using good, clear English when preparing sales literature and correspondence.

Instructions for technical products particularly if they are for export and may have to be translated into foreign languages.

It is difficult enough getting good translations, but impossible if the original English is sloppy and full of technical words and phrases known only within a narrow sector of the

trade. Such literature must be written by someone who knows the product intimately and, just as important, the people to whom it will be addressed.

A top draftsman may be able to write good English and knows the product on the drawing board, but nothing about the difficulties of installing it in Newfoundland in mid-winter. Similarly, a senior outside director knows the snags at site, but little about writing clear English.

I remember receiving a pathetic letter from a first class tractor struggling with a water turbine in a desolate part of Peru. "Will you please send by air mail a little man about two inches high as without him I cannot see how I am to fit this patent water seal on the main shaft."

Coming to the more general issue, I would offer the following guide-lines:

1. Always think while you write, and try to put down what you have to say as clearly and accurately as you can. When you are checking through a letter, out anything that is unnecessary.
 2. Remember who your reader will be. This is the person to and for whom you are writing.
 3. Never use words or expressions because you think they sound fine. To your reader they may make nonsense.
 4. Never use technical words your reader may not understand.
- In conclusion, Sir, may I remind your readers that Jesus Christ did not say: "It is necessary that the sphere of animal

relationship should be in a purely extended." He said "Love one another."

Yours faithfully,
WILSON OF HIGH WRAY,
Gillinggate House,
Kendal,
Cumbria LA9 4JB.

From Mr Terence McLaughlin
Sir, May I add to John Stephenson's plea for better communication in industry (Nov 21)? Let us, for every sake, keep the messages clear. I try to teach the rudiments of good writing to people in industry and am constantly depressed and alarmed by jargon that fills most business reports. Ideas vital to relations are smothered in wordy blarney, obviously properly understood by writers themselves, so how the readers to cope? Management and unions are equally fault in this.

In a struggle conducted such haphazard weapons it is no wonder that the main factors are in the hands of bystanders—the public. Law can help our plight, may I suggest a five fine for committing a sentence (except in private with a sending adult). Or, better, on a word of more than 10 syllables, sentences of more than 30 words and the use of clichés which are your readers can live themselves.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE McLAUGHLIN
"Vaneys", Rudds Lane,
Haddenham,
Buckinghamshire,
November 21.

Training and the shortage of skilled labour

From Mr R. S. Musgrave
Sir, The idea that we need more training for the labour force is a popular and over simple one (Miss Hampton, November 23). There is, as Samuel Brittan recently pointed out, no such thing as a shortage; there is such a thing as a shortage at a particular price. In other words, a skill shortage is almost synonymous with the price (in this case of skilled labour) being too low, and it is very hard to know which synonym is nearer the truth.

Secondly, even where there are plenty of skills in the dole queue, employers will find a shortage of the right skill at the right place and time. This phenomenon is inevitable and more training is no cure for it.

Thirdly, the proposition that each person in training is one less unemployed is false. The

reason for this is complex, but basically it is that, sending people off for training reduces labour supply while the training lasts, thus demand must also be reduced. Even if this proposition is valid, it is still false to say training is a cure for unemployment; employment is a cure for unemployment.

There are too many too much training; six month skill centre courses cost about £4,000 each, yet half the trainees six months after leaving their courses are either unemployed or doing jobs which do not use their skills. I am not claiming there is definitely too much or too little training; I am merely pointing out the complexity of the problem.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. MUSGRAVE,
24 Garden Avenue,
Framwellgate Moor,
Durham, DH1 5EQ.

Accountants' role in industry

From Mr F. R. Robins
Sir, Mr Alex Park (Nov 19) is not alone, nor the question the role of accountants in industry.

The accountant's job is to see that a company's money—its industry's money, and accountants if ever, understand such as research, development, production, the technical engineering, biological sciences. Accountants are inherently biased speculation with respect to financing the development of new inventions and ideas.

Many of our most inventions of earlier era is before modern methods of accountancy came into would never have seen the light of day had not it been for the accountants' need for funds.

These days, unfortunately the speculative financial port required to get a product off the ground so seems to be a nullified reality by the technologically sophisticated illiterate accountants.

Yours faithfully,
F. R. ROBINS,
Witchings,
11 Monks Well,
Moor Park,
Farnham,
Surrey GU10 1RH.

Billion dollar blunder

From Señor Francisco R. Parra
Sir, Reference my letter "No ulterior motive" behind Venezuelan oil announcement" (November 29), we erroneously addressed you in American and said "billion" dollars. Understandably believing we were addressing you in English, we wrote out three more zeros (oops, "hundreds"). Correct

capital cost figures should be \$3,500m to \$4,000m for 125,000 barrels per day by 1988, and \$20,000m by the year 2000.

Yours truly,
FRANCISCO R. PARRA,
Managing Director,
Petrobras de Venezuela
PO Box 54,
7 Old Oak Lane,
London, W1,
November 29.

Gloomy economic predictions

From Mr P. J. Shaw
Sir, May I first say how pleased I am at the return of the British to follow this theme of purchasing British manufactured products. We are as a nation in the midst of economic recession. May I therefore suggest we start to look after ourselves and purchase the goods we make as opposed to those imported. Even a small swing in this direction would help reduce unemployment.

With productivity, output and investment falling, inflation soaring and expected or actual wage rises to match, ministers realize that something must be done. Yet surely the first step is to make all of us realize that there is a problem and there is something that we can do about it.

However, since 1973, when the Open Market price rises made our problems even worse, it has been politically impossible for governments to take the necessary action. No party will be popular for selling us that we have grave economic difficulties, and the electorate will be happy to listen to a rosy forecast from a different political party.

These political constraints, however, no longer exist. The present Government has a duty to let us know how bad the situation is. It is not until we realize just what the consequences of excessive wage demands will be—for example, using Mr Blake's suggestion of publishing predictions based on different wage rise assumptions—that we can hope to persuade

ourselves, or others, of a need for moderation.

Time is of the essence. T. Government has recently been elected with a large majority. Parliament and it does not need to worry about faded recollections, as our previous minor governments have done. (I member Mr Healey's efforts show us that inflation was at 8 per cent in 1974? The electorate was only too happy believe that the situation was better than it seemed.)

For too long now, political factors have prevented leaders from tackling our economic problems. Let us be that this Government will see the opportunity, while it is of making the first step in the direction. If it does not do so, and continues to cover the gloomy forecasts, the political opportunity will be lost.

The Conservatives can blame our economic difficulties on the previous five years Labour policies. But, if it waits much longer (and sooner or later the gloomy prediction will be published) they will be the risk of having the economic problems blamed on their policies. Once this stage is reached the political constraints will once more, make the task much harder.

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND M. ALTMANN,
Department of Political Economy,
University College London,
Gower Street,
London WC1E 6BT.

'Terrible years ahead' as BSC makes adjustments, chairman says
Steel corporation faces losses of £300m

The British Steel Corporation faces losses of more than £300,000,000 for the current year. And by the end of its financial year will have lost since 1975 well over £1,000m.

It is now about to embark on a further round of drastic cutbacks in capacity involving the loss of many thousands of jobs, coupled with a drive to lift productivity to international levels.

This was made clear from yesterday's announcement of half-year loss figures of £145.6m and follows continuous discussions with the Government and Whitehall.

Although reluctant to admit the fact, the Corporation is now faced with the possibility of completely reorganizing its operations in the light of the collapse in demand—which it expected would be later rather than sooner.

BSC executives were reluctant to spell out how many jobs will have to go but trade union leaders will be left in no doubt that the figure will be high.

The slump in demand comes at a time just when the Corporation is emerging from its huge development plan, and it looks as though around two million tons of existing capacity will have to be taken either through mothballing or permanent closure.

If the BSC is to bring its capacity into line with demand, Corporation planning in July was based on a progressive financial improvement in the second half of this year, with a new plant coming on stream.



Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman (centre) at yesterday's news conference.

old plant closures and a recession during 1980-81.

But the collapse has come much earlier. Orders for bar, billet and rod (which accounts for a third of all the corporation's business) are down to 45,000 tonnes a week from over 65,000 tonnes earlier in the year; stripmill products—accounting for a further third of the business—are down from 60,000 tonnes a week to 47,000; and demand for plate is down by 10,000 tonnes a week from 18,000 tonnes.

BSC admits that it will not meet the financial targets set for March next year. Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the corporation, stressed yesterday that the aim must still be to meet the target at a very early date.

Apart from the pressures

created by the collapse in demand, BSC is still bound by the Government's financial plans. Next year its cash limit has been fixed at £450,000,000 and the Government apparently is not prepared to modify its earlier decision that it will not fund accumulating losses beyond the end of the present financial year.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has reaffirmed "prompt remedial action" should be taken in order that the cash limit is adhered to.

The implication, therefore, is clear enough. The BSC board, according to Sir Charles, is united in the need to turn the business round. He said last night: "We have further terrible years ahead as we make these adjustments."

The reorganization of BSC is now well under way. Disposals of part of its chemicals business and its constructional steelworks subsidiary, Redpath Dorman Long, are in hand.

Talks with OGN on jointly rationalizing billets, bar and rod production are taking place. It is understood that discussions between the two have considered the phasing-out of 1,000,000 tonnes of rod capacity.

Further reorganization is expected—possibly involving reshaping of existing divisional structure and perhaps the creation of semi-autonomous product centres. All of which will lead to a more scaled-down headquarters operation.

Peter Hill

Chemical unions see threat in Comecon barter deals

By John Huxley
European chemical workers' unions have written to Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission, seeking an urgent meeting on the threat posed by barter deals with Comecon countries.

The unions are concerned that investment and jobs in the West are being put at risk by deals in which technological know-how is exported to Eastern Europe. Such deals not only create potential market rivals, but are increasingly accompanied by compensation trading arrangements, where part of the price to be paid for assistance to build productive capacity has to be taken in kind.

The unions believe that such deals, frequently supported by government credit facilities, have enabled Comecon countries to expand capacity at a point where it now threatens European markets.

Mr David Warburton, secretary of the United Kingdom Chemical Unions Council, said yesterday that overcapacity and unemployment could easily develop in a number of sectors. These include fertilisers, insecticides, plastics, tyres, man-made fibres (where Britain faces an additional import threat from the United States) and even glass.

"Capacity being built up in Eastern Europe for many products will soon exceed home demand," he said. "Some of the excess will be sent to the West in the form of compensation and more will come in the form of direct exports."

Earlier this week, representatives of chemical, rubber and general worker unions in Europe approved moves to seek a meeting with the European Commission and CEEC, the European chemical industry employers' organization.

Mr Warburton, who is also vice president of the European chemical trades unions committee, said he would be seeking more information on East-West deals, details of which are often withheld on the ground of confidentiality.

The unions want to know the extent of deals, the credit facilities provided, and their own. The unions also favour the creation of some organization to monitor the longer-term effects of barter deals.



Mr David Warburton: seeking details on East-West deals.

publicly expressed concern earlier this year, are engaged in providing plant in the Soviet Union.

He also quoted as an example, the Uralal tyre company, which signed a deal to supply not only technology but also engineers and technicians for a new tyre plant in Debica, Poland. Yet the tyre industry in Western Europe will be forced to make redundancies.

Plan to ease shipbuilding crisis

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, Nov 29

The eighth International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) shipbuilding conference ended here today with an action programme to help to ease the world shipbuilding crisis. It calls for "scrap and build" programmes by governments, and sharply criticizes indiscriminate state subsidizing and credit packages for shipbuilding companies.

Mr Herman Rebhan, general secretary of IMF, said: "The world shipbuilding calamity that has seen 250,000 jobs disappear since 1975 must be solved by international action. We are all united on the need to maintain full employment."

The federation estimates that such schemes could save 35,000 jobs in the Community, where shipbuilding workers declined by five thousand between 1975 and 1978.

The IMF declaration calls upon OECD to take measures to counteract unfair practices by Third World shipbuilders. "There has been a remarkable change round since the last IMF world conference in Tokyo in 1973," Mr Rebhan said. "New countries have burst onto the world shipping and ship repair scene. In Asia, Latin America and Arabia."

UK alarm at growth in Soviet freight links

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

Britain has formally expressed concern to the Soviet Union over the rapidly increasing volume of Britain's exports to the Far East moving by the Trans-Siberian Railway.

This was disclosed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade, in speaking at the annual luncheon of the British Shippers' Council in London yesterday. Concern was expressed over Britain's increasing dependence on both the Russian land bridge and Russian shipping partly at the expense of Britain's own liner fleet.

The Trans-Siberian Railway already carries about a tenth of the total trade between

Europe and the Far East. Rates are set at a level to attract cargo, especially high-value goods such as electronics, and there are growing fears over the strategic implications of this increasing dependence on Russian transport in overseas trade.

Britain has also expressed "irritation and concern" to the United States over continued unilateral interference in the liner trade between the two countries.

The Government's policy on shipping generally was to resist Russian expansion and intervention, Mr Tebbit said. "We prefer to see the free play of market forces between the shipper and shipowner and are confident that a sensible and fair balance can be maintained with minimum government intervention."

China pact brings hope of big railway orders for Britain

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Substantial Chinese orders for British railway equipment are expected, after the signing in London yesterday of an agreement—the first of its kind between the two countries—on railway and scientific cooperation by Mr Guo Weicheng, China's minister for railways, and Mr Norman Fowler, Britain's Minister of Transport.

Four British firms—General Electric Corporation, Brush, Dowty, and Cowan and Sheldon—have been invited to China to follow up commercial possibilities identified during Mr Weicheng's two-week visit to Britain's railway and industry locations. A number of others, including Lucas, Metro-Cammell, and British Steel, are expected to join a visit led by British Rail in the New Year.

Mr Fowler, who described the agreement as "a significant step in the increasing cooperation between our two countries," has accepted an invitation to visit China next spring.

According to Mr Ian Campbell, BR's chief executive who has played a major part in bringing the cooperation about, China is proposing to electrify its 50,000 km railway network at a rate of 1,000 km a year.

This should offer important opportunities to British industry, not just for consultancy and licensing, but for the supply of hardware, though China had an understandable desire to make as much as possible of itself. BR was already advising for the Hong Kong railway and would now be helping with the first 150 km of route over the border of mainland China, Mr Campbell said.



Mr Guo Weicheng, China's minister for railways, and Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport in London yesterday.



Venezuela to cut crude output by 6 pc

Venezuela yesterday became the latest member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to announce a cut in its production next year. Its output of 2.35 million barrels a day will be cut by 150,000 barrels, a reduction of 6 per cent.

Mr Humberto Caceron Berti, the mines and energy minister said.

The United Arab Emirates has said it intends to cut its production by around 5 per cent. Kuwait is intending to reduce its production, Iran's intentions are unclear, but it is thought to want to cut output.

Saudi Arabia has yet to say whether it is prepared to keep up the extra one million barrels a day it has been producing to alleviate the potential worldwide shortage of supplies.

Brazilian pact for Sir

Consorzio Industriale SIR, the main operating company of the Sir Chemicals group, said in Milan that it and its engineering subsidiary Euteco-Impianti have signed a five-year scientific and technical cooperation agreement with Brazil's state-owned Petrobras Quimica.

Euteco will initially provide technological know-how for the construction of a 140,000 tonne ethylbenzene plant at Rio Grande do Sul.

Fuel from creosote

Sasol, South Africa's synthetic fuel corporation, will build a plant for the conversion of creosote and phenols into diesel fuel and petrol.

Mr Johannes Stegmann, the managing director said. The plant would convert 360,000 tonnes of creosote and phenols into 420 million litres of diesel and petrol per year.

ASEAN talks resume

Negotiations on a trade agreement between the European Economic Community and the Association of South East Asian Nations have restarted in Brussels.

The agreement between the two groups is due to be signed by the end of the year. The current negotiations should make "substantial progress" sources close to the Commission said.

China's trade surges

China's foreign trade surged ahead in the first 10 months of this year, but imports outweighed exports by \$1,600m (about £762m). Exports totalled \$10,800m from January to October, compared with imports of \$12,400m. Exports were 41.3 per cent higher than in the same period of 1978, while imports rose 51.8 per cent.

Air fare rises formula

The world's major airlines have called for almost automatic fare increases to compensate for future price rises. A resolution on the fuel-fare formula was adopted at the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association in Manila.

Bonn tax plan agreed

A proposal by Herr Hans Matthöfer, the West German finance minister to amend and simplify the tax system, reducing government revenue by about 448m marks (about £117m) annually, has been approved. The changes apply to various areas of taxation, including corporate and turnover tax. Income tax is not affected.

Dutch jobless rise

Dutch unemployment rose to 208,400 in November from 206,300 in October and 208,000 in November last year, provisional figures show. Unadjusted figures on unemployment show a rise to 208,500 from 207,400 in October and 208,700 in November 1978.

W German index up

West Germany's cost of living index rose a provisional 0.4 per cent in November, giving a 5.7 per cent year-on-year rise. The Federal statistics office said in Wiesbaden. The year-on-year rise compares with 5.7 per cent registered in October.

S&C
THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED

**Floating Rate
Unsecured Capital Notes 1986**

For the six months from 1st December 1979 to 31st May 1980 the above mentioned Notes will carry an interest rate of 17½% per annum.

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Testing the tender offer

ing for a sale by tender in bringing Publishing Group to the market, & Friedlander has aroused new in an introduction technique which dormant for over a decade.

is will be auctioned at a fairly solid m price and applicants invited to ordering to their own evaluation. It n be up to the bank to fix the best; which a reasonable market can be —presumably at least 500 share-

uncharitable view taken by some of rivals yesterday was that the house had lost faith in its pitching by deciding to burden the investing with the finer calculations. Recent ice in the new issues market, how- ews this to be largely unjustified, y premiums in recent months of as 40 per cent, with stages mopping up ards, have provided evidence of a y by some houses to under-price out of having a flop on their hands.

rightly argues that in current market conditions it is quite ile to light on the perfect issue pecially when decisions have to be ne ten days ahead of an offer. ession remains, however, as to how investing public and perhaps even oportunities the stage will be to e on their own guesstimates of conditions. In the case of a small e Haynes the problem is not so and a striking price some 15p to e the minimum seems a reasonable

case of bigger issues, however, as use of the recent BP offer, the shear ty of a blind auction could frighten ut the market professionals. This ight against the grain of current rket thinking about the role of the investor.

Bank and behind

ank of Scotland has done slightly an expected with pre-tax profits ear to September up 42 per cent 1 after a disappointing start caused y a hefty bad debt provision of m in connexion with the failed n finance house Associated.

with all banks at times of rising rates it could hardly have done a with average base rates 4.5 points t 12.7 per cent. Advances have also ead by 14 per cent to £2,200m and is been further helped by its low cent overseas exposure, where Eurocurrency margins have been uth the effort.

ie same group has had to a 21 per cent jump in costs, y mostly from salary awards, and a on the margin between base and tes from 3.2 to 2.6 per cent. Williams & Glyn's side has done ter with profits almost two-thirds t £47.4m, thanks partly to strong and which has pushed the bank corset and to some extent due to recovery, and that is the sort of hich will emerge with the London when their calendar year ends.

Bank of Scotland indicated with its its a couple of months ago banking and is under pressure from the new banks there in the last year d Royal Bank's profits are only a ahead at £49m, although the bad ge this time of £7.8m is higher mal.

hile, as the first clearer to abide new accounting methods, and specific and general provisions, ank has shown no particular . As expected the specific provision cent of advances at Williams & rather high compared with Royal's out.

erall the group seems to be taking istic line on its bad debt experience r with little or no increase in its provisions.

ear base rates look like at least t those of 1978-79 but staff costs t rising fast and the Scottish s outlook is not promising. On a

BP

Third quarter implications

BP's briefing note on yesterday's third quarter figures poses the question: "What is the true picture then?" And the market spent the afternoon wading through the complications posed by the LIFO/FIFO conversion; the basis on which Sohio income had been taken in; a sky-high tax charge and of course the implications for BP's crude oil supplies of the Nigerian losses and Iranian uncertainty.

By the end of the day the shares were a cautious 8p up at 365p, against a price of 363p for the secondary issue earlier this month. That reflects what are satisfactory rather than glamorous third quarter returns, with third quarter net income, after stripping out stock profits of £350m, of £212m, against £157m and £140m in the second and first quarters.

The LIFO/FIFO adjustment coupled with deferred tax provisions caused a wide discrepancy between the Sohio contribution to BP and the figures Sohio reported the other day, but nevertheless Sohio, now 53 per cent owned by BP, bumped up its contribution substantially against a background of much better Alaskan production and the ability to sell a higher proportion of it into convenient United States West Coast markets.

BP's other substantial crude source, the North Sea, probably produced about 515,000 bpd in the third quarter, though BP had to operate fairly heavily in the spot markets to maintain supplies, which also contributed to the stock profit.

Moreover, there was another rather more unexpected bright spot: West European demand remained relatively buoyant in markets that reflect supply nervousness rather than price-sensitivity. That may have been an "easy come" quarter, though, BP with its downstream network enhanced by recent acquisitions was able to capitalise.

For the immediate future the position could not be more uncertain, but BP, no long a crude-rich company even though more can be expected both from Alaska and the North Sea, will still cope better than many against a background of oil prices rising to perhaps \$6 a barrel to over \$30 next year—and selling at around 3½ times fully-taxed earnings (the third quarter tax charge is simply a best guess at this stage). It looks attractive against a sector, which should be held rather than bought at this stage.

600 Group After the strike

The engineering strike has had the expected painful effect on 600 Group cutting half-year profits by a third to £3.6m. However, hopes that the worst is now behind it lifted the share price 4p to 57p yesterday.

Assisted by the ending last month of the ban on exporting scrap metal, overseas demand has helped to offset sluggishness of demand at home. The machine tools side is still doing well though there is a three month time cycle, and orders will be more difficult to win from now on.

Elsewhere steel castings had a difficult first half and the foundries subsidiary has now been closed, though the sale of the assets is likely to meet the costs of the shut down, so there should be no extraordinary costs at the year end.

Some action has also been taken on borrowings which have been reduced from the year end level of £12m net, and interest charges have already started to reflect this.

Assuming some second-half recovery the group could make £10m for the year which points to a p/e ratio of around 5 and a yield of just under 14 per cent. This takes into account the rough ride engineers can expect next year but discounts bid possibilities. Hawker Siddeley having been mooted as possible suture by market gossips.

Were I a Treasury minister, the very first thing I would want to do at the moment would be to lace myself into the straight-jacket of a medium-term financial plan.

On the other hand, if ministers are convinced that the one point of policy on which there will be no U-turn is the commitment to reduce the rate of monetary growth, so be it: let them publish their plan. But on two conditions.

They are: First, that they should be sure that the monetary indicators they choose are appropriate. Secondly, they should be certain that they have, or at least are going to have, the tools necessary to enable them to carry their plans to fulfilment.

For I start, then, they should already have a fairly good idea of how the present system of monetary control can be improved upon, as improved upon it must be. They also must be able to make some intelligent estimate of the implications for monetary control of the recent abolition of exchange controls.

The potential complications created by the ending of exchange controls can perhaps be exaggerated. But that is certainly no justification for arguing that they can be safely ignored.

It was, in fact, to say the least, a bit of a shock to the Chancellor's historic pronouncement the Governor of the Bank of England found himself quietly requesting the Bank to consider the situation to undermine or frustrate

the Government's attempts to regain the monetary initiative domestically.

The considerations posed by the ending of exchange controls fall into three main categories. One concerns the continuing usefulness of money, particularly those that form the basis of targets (sterling M3) and policy decisions (M1, sterling M3 and domestic credit expansion).

A second concerns the capacity of the system simply to monitor, let alone comprehensively and speedily, the intervention of money.

Finally, there is the issue of the effectiveness of any control mechanism when money is free to move on and offshore at convenience.

Taking the issue of the aggregates first, this in its turn has two principal aspects. One results from the new freedom to move sterling deposits and sterling lending off shore. If this involves no more than the development of offshore banking bringing together non-resident sterling depositors and non-resident sterling borrowers, the implications for the domestic aggregates should be nil, at least on a first round basis.

But were it to involve resident depositors and/or resident borrowers—perhaps reflecting overseas considerations or as a result of an ill-conceived banking control mechanism in the United Kingdom—then the implications could be very different.

After exchange controls: how do you gauge the money supply?

John Whitmore

Depending on the nature of the transactions, sterling M3 and domestic credit expansion could well be understating the liquidity and satisfaction of credit demand in the economy—just as they do now as a result of the increasing amount of money circulating outside the banking system.

The second aspect with implications for the usefulness of the present indicators takes in the freedom that all United Kingdom residents now have to switch in and out of sterling.

The main indicator of broad-based money used to be M3, which includes residents' foreign currency deposits, but when we entered the age of monetary targets some three years ago it was decided (with considerable justification under an exchange control regime) that the foreign currency element of M3 had little relevance to the dynamics of the domestic economy. Now, perhaps, there is a case for reverting to broad-based M3.

That case is, however, not clear-cut. Apart from anything else, there can be no firm idea at this stage as to how people will adapt to their new freedom. If it emerges that a significant number of people believe that they have something to gain by switching in and out of sterling, then there may well be a case for wheeling M3 to the front of the stage.

But if it proves to be merely a case of a few people saving for overseas holidays via a foreign currency account, the case is less strong—though the seasonal pattern of people's behaviour will be worth noting.

There is, moreover, a further potential complication and here we enter the whole area of monitoring problems. The difficulty is this: if people decide to hold money offshore, and this presumably would be more likely to occur with foreign currency than sterling deposits, how will the authorities know how much money has gone, where it has gone and when, if ever, it is likely to come back?

Our own monitoring system can, for obvious reasons, only cover banking operations, carried out in the United Kingdom. In short, the authorities are going to have to rely heavily on what they can glean from the international figures provided by the Bank for International Settlements and, of course, the banking grapevine and their "feel" of what is happening.

Finally, there are the implications of exchange control abolition for the monetary control mechanism. What kind of mechanism we are going to have remains to be seen, but the notion of a mechanism, such as the corset, that merely forces money and credit creation out of the mainline banking system is surely redundant.

The authorities clearly need a mechanism that acts more effectively on the quantity of liquidity in the system as a whole. But in a world of freedom of capital movement they are going to need to take care—just as they will undoubtedly take care to come up with a system that is in no way penal to British-owned banks—that they emerge with a system that is not so penal and rigid to banking generally in this country that the offshore option is made appreciably more attractive from the outset.

It may, in fact, be that the authorities will have to settle for a "belt and braces" approach to the external loop-hole until such time as international monitoring and restriction moves on a few stages further. It may also, as I have already said, be possible to exaggerate the domestic monetary implications of the abolition of exchange controls.

But Treasury ministers should at least know what is practicable before they choose to set out a medium-term financial plan—or at least one of any substance. If they believe that the possibility of liquidity and credit creation being diverted offshore is either negligible or irrelevant, or both, then they must make a convincing case to that effect.

Otherwise, they run the risk of making themselves look foolish. They might even be running the risk of torpedoing monetarism altogether—and with it, themselves.

Technology

Giving the automated office a 'brain'



Mr Muir Moffat, managing director of Nexos: original thinking in office systems.

Office systems analysis has not hitherto been a recognized discipline, says Mr Muir Moffat, managing director of Nexos Office Systems, the National Enterprise Board subsidiary. But if Nexos has anything to do with it, it is going to be one from now on.

Nexos and Urwick Dynamics yesterday announced a joint venture into the new discipline in the shape of Urwick Nexos, a training-orientated consultancy. Mr David Urwick's move from the National Computing Centre to become managing director of the new company will further strengthen an already strong top management nucleus at Nexos.

In less than a year since its formation Nexos has demonstrated a key advantage over its office-automation rivals in the ability to move quickly in acquiring the elements of what it considered to be the ideal office of the future, underpinned by any computer and how the typical office and how the

Some may regard a connection with the NEB as less than irresistible at this particular time. But at the moment it is Nexos which is setting the pace in office thinking, and its automated and integrated, and in translating concepts into reality.

Starting from an analysis of who does what and for what proportion of the time in a typical office, and how that could be improved—Nexos has associated itself with a number of companies which are able to contribute relevant segments of expertise. They include Logica VTS, a specialist in word processing, Muirhead on facsimile transmission and Ultrasonic Data Systems on the marketing of the Japanese Ricoh single-line display word-processors.

These are all relevant to the office terminals of the future—multi-purpose access to the typewriters and telephones of today. But, before these products can be put together into fully integrated systems, some-

thing very clever has to be designed and built to give the system a "brain". This does not imply artificial intelligence in the generally accepted sense of the term, but rather something that gives the automated office a central nervous system.

Clearly this something would be a computer or collection of computers. Conventional digital computers could be persuaded to do much of what was required, but at great cost in software complexity. What Nexos had in mind was a completely new system architecture based on a computer powerful enough to handle not only text, graphics and computer data, but also speech—and to handle them together.

This vital element was found in California in the shape of the Delta family of computers developed by Delphi Corporation, an affiliate of Exxon Enterprises (itself a subsidiary of Exxon Corporation). A combination of up to 32 processors gives the Delta the ability to handle office communication and data processing very rapidly, flexibly and in large volumes.

In particular, it has the capacity or band width to permit

messages scribbled on scraps of paper.

The operators have full information and individual answering guidance on video terminals and the inquirer can call up not only data bank but also a voice bank and a text bank in the computer's memory; and to recognize voice commands and to give "spoken" responses.

The system records the messages, stores them in digital form in a "voice bank" and plays them back as required. If an incoming message is an order for a client's products, the operator keys the details into an order-form frame which appears on the video screen and the order is printed and despatched automatically.

The San Francisco system has confirmed the power and flexibility of the Delta and its ability to integrate the handling of voice messages with data and with the video terminals. From this prototype Nexos plans to move on to a more ambitious system of office automation for the future.

At the heart of the system as envisaged is a Delta computer (described in the trade as a "communications" engine). This engine will drive and interconnect as appropriate a range of office items which can include telephones (via a private automatic branch exchange), video terminals or workstations, data-processing computers (which may be of different makes) and other equipment such as "advanced" copiers, facsimile equipment, printers and word-processors.

The system would be able to transform information from one medium to another; to "store and forward" mixed packets of speech, data and text in a message-switching role; to hold not only a data bank but also a voice bank and a text bank in the computer's memory; and to recognize voice commands and to give "spoken" responses.

Mr Moffat illustrates what this can mean in practice. A manager could direct any written document to a colleague electronically from one terminal to another. He could also add a "voice note" where appropriate simply by viewing the text on his video screen, pointing a light pen at the relevant paragraph and speaking his message ("Fred").

Fred receives the image of the text at his terminal, together with an indication where and when there is a voice note waiting for him. He presses a key and hears the message. Many other examples of integrated office communications are possible.

While Nexos is developing its big systems (for which it will make and market the Delta computer in Britain) it is not too proud to begin by selling its word-processors and other workstations on their own. Now Urwick Nexos has added a new piece to the jigsaw: consultancy and education in the new discipline of office systems analysis.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Hildreth's new job • Consumer catch

senly can't keep a down. Jan Hildreth, the Institute of Directors' secretary last year, was yesterday a non-executive of Minister Trust, the bank subsidiary of assets.

h, the institute's director-general, left battle with the then Denis Randolph of March. The row a head after consulted in by Randolph t that Hildreth should e confine himself to e institute's public ut cease being an witor.

result Hildreth found ntrolling less than 30 and PR staff while the g 100 or so reported e Randolph.

was a lot of sympathy rth among the insti- 0,000-odd members as admiration for his inding of the move Belgrave Square to l and for the retrieval finances from loss to e. The effect of this e eventually resulted ph's departure shortly is.

ast year Hildreth a doing a variety of t least attempting to a charity to provide ucational facilities for handicapped children who is now 20 is a



Jan Hildreth: back in business.

financial advisory services and with investment in small and medium-sized companies.

Is the Consumer Legislation Monitoring Group, set up among business interests such as Marks and Spencer, Unilever and the Confederation of British Industry to reveal the additional costs of complying with new consumer laws, itself a waste of time and money? The consumerists' lobby suggest it is.

The monitoring group commissioned a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit but Jeremy Mitchell, the director of the National Consumer Council, promptly spiked its guns by leaking the report's findings.

He ridicules the statistical methods by which the findings had been reached and challenges the £40m tag which the group claims it costs the eight business sectors—from food to leisure—to "service" the new laws. He says the figure "is nearer £20m."

upon another survey carried out by the National Federation of the Self-Employed and Small Businesses. Asked what recent legislation had damaged their business, 59 per cent of respondents pointed the finger at the Employment Protection Act and 29.2 per cent at the introduction of VAT. Only 3.5 per cent mentioned consumer protection legislation.

The abashed Consumer Legislation Monitoring Group is left with its EIU report, estimated to have cost something in five figures, and differences of opinion as to whether to publish it.

A date for the diaries of the ghostly. Next Wednesday at Quaglin's the London restaurant, Spink the coin people are auctioning what are described as "internment camp items" from the Isle of Man.

For those with short memories there were three pairs of internment camps on the island during the First World War, wherein were placed German civilians unlucky enough to be resident in the United Kingdom at the outbreak of hostilities.

Whoever struck the little white metal models on auction will not exactly what you would call a president. One bears the inscription "Wellington 1914-15". (World War 1914-15). Funny, I thought it went on a bit longer than that?

The anonymous author of a new Building Societies Association booklet, *Building Societies House-Purchase*, was caught on the hop like anybody else by the leap in lending rate to 15 per cent. The top rate quoted in all his tables, is 13.75 per cent.

First, coals to Newcastle. Then sand to the desert. Now, it's snowballs to the Eskimos.

Well, not quite... or rather not quite what you are thinking. They are snowballs all right, but not the kind you children derive such great pleasure from wrapping around your ear while you are trying to dig the car out of the snow.

According to the Scottish Office, which knows about these things, the snowballs the Eskimos have taken a shine to are the soft fondant cream variety—a chocolate coated, coconut-chipped confection much loved by generations of school children.

John J. Lees of Cambridge, Lancashire, is the great benefactor behind this magnificent coup, says the Scottish Office.

According to Lees' chairman and managing director, Drew Sim, the company had been sending competitors to eastern Canada for several years before it finally clicked that the Eskimos were going for the stuff in a big way.

"It finally dawned on us when we noticed that at certain times of the year we always received a larger than normal order from our agent," Sim says. "Eventually we contacted him and he explained that when the ice melted and he could get through he would be taking the snowballs to Labrador."

She told her members at their recent convention in Los Angeles that of the 4.5m package tours sold in the United Kingdom last year, a mere 200,000 were directly sold on holiday days. Of course, there was a market for such methods, "but the competent travel agent and tour operator—and it takes both sides to produce competence—have nothing to fear."

Her tolerance is not surprising, some may say, when it is known that Barr and Wallace Arnold Trust, the big computer-to-holidays company of which Mrs Hook is deputy chairman, has just launched a new direct selling holiday subsidiary called Inn-Ten.

Mrs Hook is fully capable, however, of fending off criticism. "This is a small, highly specialized operation selling, we hope, about 3,000-4,000 holidays in the coming year. It is, as we expect, then it will be our firm policy to sell through agents."

What is claimed to be the world's rarest Russian bond, the second issue of the 5 per cent loan of 1912 for 4,725 roubles. (£500) used for general repairs and improvements to the City of Nikolai, is expected to realize at least £3,500 in Stanley Gibbons' auction of bond and share certificates on December 7. Only 13 of the bonds were issued and it is interesting to speculate whether the city fathers of Nikolai ever achieved their aims. Perhaps they just cut public spending.

Malcolm Brown

Wolseley-Hughes Limited

TURNOVER UP 18.4%

1979: £156.1m (1978: £131.8m)

PROFIT BEFORE TAX UP 36.3%

1979: £29.7m (1978: £21.8m)

DIVIDEND PER SHARE UP 33.3%

1979: 10.4245p (Net) 14.892p (Gross) (1978: 7.4833p (Net) 11.169p (Gross))

*Improved performance by nearly all subsidiaries.

*The acquisition of John James Group, none of whose figures is included in these results, is a significant step in the development of the group.

*Adequate facilities are available to continue growth.

A copy of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, P.O. Box 18, Vines Lane, Droitwich WR9 8ND.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets
Equities cautious, but index still up 6 points

Gift edged eased a bit yesterday morning but recovered the ground lost in the afternoon. The new long top 149.20 for which only £100m or so was subscribed, began life at a discount in first dealings. However the time firm as the day wore on and the £20 partly paid stock finished at 19.15-16. There was also some buying of the short top 15 per cent 1985. This closed at 98.13-16.

It would be wrong however to say that there has been a decisive change in sentiment, even though there is talk that the short top may be exhausted this morning. It is rather the short-term market is, for the moment at least, setting down again. On a dull day, other movements were of an:

jobbers to try and activate. There was in fact just enough buying to suggest that jobbers were being squeezed. But there were too many uncertainties, including those about the miners, to allow this slightly more cheerful trend to get very far. Second line stocks made the running though BP's third quarter was very good.

Mirroring the mood, the FT index closed 6.0 up at 422.9. After a dull start which saw early losses, leading industrialists managed to gain ground late in the afternoon when some industrial buying pushed them to finish firm on the day. Unilever was 3p stronger at 46.4p and ICI rose 4p to 36.3p. Gains of 2p were notched up in Fisons at 23.4p and Pilkington Bros at 25.0p, but Rank Organisation dipped by the same amount at 18.2p. Among those to finish firm on the day were Glaxo at 41.1p, Beecham at 12.3p, and Courtauld at 30p. Shares of BOC International staged a slight rally yesterday partly on wages claim settlement and partly because the shares were regarded by the market as having been over-sold.

The better-than-expected third-quarter figures of BP gave the major oils a fillip with BP themselves rising 8p to 38.6p while the new were 10p higher at 18.2p. Shell finished 6p up at 35.4p and Ultramar put up 2p to 39.6p. Elsewhere, Oil Exploration slipped 14p to 64p, and Lloyds fell 7p to 34.3p before Lloyds' bid went unconditional late in the day.

Gold shares continued to make ground following Western day's steep rise in the bullion price. Southwaite was 50 cents stronger at \$20, and St Helena gained 5p to \$26. In mines Broken Hill South Africa put up 1p to 19.0p, following the lead of Western Mining 3p up at 15.9p. On the bid front Dawson Day

slipped 3p to 62p after fears that Britannia Arrow may not be in a position to make a counter bid to the one from Rotherchild Investment Trust, 3p up at 24.6p. Thorne drifted 4p to 31.2p despite news reports that acceptance for its £1m bid, which closed on Tuesday, had started to come in. GEC continued to gain ground rising 5p to 34.3p while Aveyer remained unchanged at 26.1p. Geo Sandeman was also unchanged following the recently agreed bid from Sea-grants.

Among companies reporting, the 600 Group rose 4p to 5.7p after better than expected electricity figures and Proprietors of Hay's Wharf increased by 5p to 11.0p following its trading statement. Others to report included Hargreaves Group 2p better at 5.3p and Royal Bank of Scotland 3p firmer at 81p. Figures above most market expectations. Listed Tunnel Holdings 2p to 38p which in turn pushed up Blue Circle in sympathy 8p to 24.0p. Shares of Wearwell dipped 2p to 48p after news that the textile group was planning its second year-end loss. Unilever rose 12p to 21.6p and Kade International put up 9p to 20.8p. Decca ordinary was 5p better at 29.0p but the "A" remained

unchanged at 25.4p. Plessey with second quarter figures due next week firmed a penny to 11.1p but Comet Radiovision which reported increased profits and a 2-4-4 split, earlier this week remained firm at 14.0p. In stores GUS "A" continued to gain ground ahead of today's AGM, rising 4p to 35.2p while Burton "A" and Mothercare both advanced 2p to 22.8p and 17.6p.

The big four clearing all improved with Barclays 5p up at 40.5p, National Westminster and Midland both increasing 4p to 33.0p and Lloyds rising 2p to 28.0p. Properties continued to make ground with M&P and Land Securities both 4p to the good at 15.2p and 22.5p. Housemaster halted the slide of earlier this week following the announcement of its bid for Rembrandt and rose 10p to 66.0p while a trading statement from Property & Reversionary lifted the group 5p to 12.0p. Equity turnover on November 23, was £54.05m (10,393 bargains), Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BP New, ICI, Consolidated Gold Fields, Shell, Rank, Tarmac, Murel, Marks & Spencer, GEC, European Ferries, English China Clay and Allied Breweries.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
BP	5,524.55	24,722.31	4,631.96	1/2	6.35(5.5)	
ICI	3,515.6	13,059.9	2,342.03	1/2	(7)	
Shell	2,738.1	12,319.5	2,211.3	2/1	3.94(3.4)	
Unilever	5,313.1	9,519.1	6,041.0	28/1	(7)	
Wearwell	1,311.31	1,911.0	3,531.23	18/1	5.75(5.23)	
Oil Exploration	1,811.4	8,671.1	1,210.8	28/1	(7)	
Southwaite	1,311.31	1,911.0	1,911.0	28/1	(7)	
St Helena	1,311.31	1,911.0	1,911.0	28/1	(7)	
Broken Hill	1,311.31	1,911.0	1,911.0	28/1	(7)	
Western Mining	1,311.31	1,911.0	1,911.0	28/1	(7)	
Dawson Day	1,311.31	1,911.0	1,911.0	28/1	(7)	
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Dawson Day	1,311.31	1,911.0	1,911.0	28/1	(7)	

Good start at Tunnel Holdings

By Rosemary Unsworth
Tunnel Holdings turned in sparkling first-half profits with a big maiden contribution from its specialty chemicals division - acquired from Barrow Hurnburn last year for £10.5m.

Pre-tax profit rose 49 per cent to £5.3m and turnover increased by 35 per cent to £45.6m in the first half of 1979. The Stock Market showed its surprise at the results by marking up the price 20p to 38.6p during the day.

The group's three-year reorganisation of the cement division also helped the results, but the chemicals division made

Struggle at Hargreaves

Contracting to transport group Hargreaves is still trying to get over last winter's twin shocks of a 17 per cent drop in industrial action. Its interim figures for the six months to September 30, 1979 show the group is struggling to overcome the sector's difficulties.

Although turnover was up by 17 per cent to £19.62m, pre-tax profits only increased fractionally by less than £200,000, from £2.46m to £2.65m. Higher depreciation charges of £1.56m against £1.27m and increased interest charges up from £310,000 to £376,000 and lower profits from associated com-

Rise of 73 pc at BASF

With profits in the first nine months of the year up by more than a half to DM731m (£193m), BASF, the giant German chemical company, expects profits in the first half of 1980 to grow well. Worldwide group sales next year will expand about 2 per cent in real terms, Mr Matthias Seefelder, chairman of the managing board, said yesterday.

Turnover to the end of September, including subsidiaries at least half owned, was DM20.6m, an increase of 30 per cent. Turnover for the full 12 months will be between DM22.5m and DM23.5m, compared with DM22.3m in 1978.

Spillers urges shareholders to seek advice

Spillers, 77 per cent of whose equity is now in the hands of Dalgety, is still not recommending acceptance of the Dalgety offer. The offer is one Dalgety ordinary for every six of Spillers.

But Mr Michael Vernon, chairman of Spillers, which produces food and animal feed, said yesterday that the directors do not recommend that shareholders should become minority holders.

Instead, they should either accept the Dalgety offer or sell for cash in the market. Shareholders are advised to consult their advisers. Acceptance of the Dalgety offer for Spillers preference shares is recommended, however.

Business appointments

Lord Gregson's new post

Lord Gregson has been elected chairman of the Labour Party's 1972 Industry Group in succession to Lord Houghton. Scottish Office officials elected were Mr Clive Bradley, vice-chairman; Mr Norman J. Hart and Sir Stigum and Mr Simon Haskell, honorary secretaries.

Rosario-Amaz

Amaz Inc and Rosario Resources Corporation have signed a definitive agreement providing for the acquisition of

Western Mining

Western Mining Corp has increased its offer for each BH South share from 50 cents in cash and one Western Mining share to 55 cents cash for each share in BH and 11 Western Mining shares for every ten BH shares in BH, Nature's Life Association of Australia will accept the Western Mining offer.

Talbot strike brings 31 pc fall at Crosby

The long strike at the Talbot car plant, which has cost the car maker £1.8m in lost production, has ended. Crosby Spring Interiors' chances of increasing profits during the half year to September 30, 1979, in the event, will be helped by the fact that the car maker's earnings are estimated to amount to £3.7m on December 29.

Costs warning from Daniel Thwaites

On turnover up from £11.85m to £13.76m, pre-tax profits of Daniel Thwaites and Co rose from £1.52m to £1.97m. But shareholders are warned by the board not to expect a second year-end equivalent to that which ended on March 31 last, as costs are now, in common with all industry, increasing dramatically.

Hambros Bank

Hambros Bank is selling its 49 per cent minority interest in CIBC Ltd to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, as previously contemplated in a shareholders' agreement. The transfer of shares will take place

Anthony Gibbs sells stake in Wardley

Anthony Gibbs, the London merchant bank, has sold its 10 per cent stake in Wardley Middle East, the investment based in Dubai, after losing money on its holding in two years. The bank, which was a partner in the company, has now sold the stake to the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, part of the Hongkong Bank Group, which owns the rest of Wardley's capital, and which has 40 per cent of Anthony Gibbs.

Invetrek's £1.4m sale to Swedish group

Invetrek Group has agreed to sell to the UK offshoot of Mioch Domjo A.B. of Sweden

North British Properties

Mr Kenneth Bell, vice-chairman, said that the group would be interested in a bid if the price was right from major shareholders. Sun Life Assurance, which holds 26 per cent of the company, has been asked to make a bid for the company. The bid would be for 100 per cent of the company, which is valued at £100m. A "marked increase" in results for current year is forecast in latest annual report.

Property & Reversionary

Pre-tax profits of Property & Reversionary Investment Corp. rose from £26,000 to £27,000 in the half year to September 30.

United Wire Group

Turnover for the half year to September 29 up from £12.25m to £13.3m. Pre-tax profits, £1.31m, against £1.25m, total gross, £1.31m (2.2p).

London Tea Holdings

London Tea Holdings, which has made two acquisitions to the company's accounts, Train Scott say they are unable to assess the possible liability of London tea on a secretarial income which is still under discussion. The auditor also says they are unable to confirm the director's statement of the company's property investment as it has not been undertaken by a firm of independent professional

Johnson & Barnes

Turnover for half-year to June 30, £1.0m (18.2p). Net loss £72,000, against profit of £33,000.

North Sea Assets

Proposed to sub-divide ordinary £1 shares into 20p shares. Free share issue of 10m also proposed, and ordinary 50p shares on basis of ten shares for each £1 share held on Nov 30.

English & Overseas Investments

Turnover for six months to September 30, £1.0m (18.2p). Net loss £72,000, against profit of £33,000.

Good second half brings record results at Hay's Wharf

By Our Financial Staff
Record profits have been produced by shipping storage and property group Proprietors of Hay's Wharf. The group published a further 17 per cent advance on last year's £4.5m record to £5.35m for the year ended September 30, 1979.



This confirms the chairman's statement at the time of rights issue last July when it pointed out that profits had recovered more quickly than had been anticipated and continued to hold up well in the last quarter in spite of high interest charges.

Although pre-tax earnings showed a 17.6 per cent uplift attributable profits are on 8.4 per cent ahead at £3.83 against £3.59m after extraordinary losses and it promises one share acquisition in subsidiaries.

At one time the company was establishing a reputation as a property developer, but it now appears to be a dormitory of the group. Hay's Wharf continues to hold substantial property investments although the directors say there is little prospect of further development taking place in the future. No firm proposals have been put to the group, and in the present high interest rate it is unlikely schemes will be put forward for consideration.

Hay's Wharf directors say record profits and turnover have been achieved by extra contributions from all the group's divisions and there has been a noticeable increase in business in the second half of the year they add.

Call to outlaw 'insider deals'

By Adrienne Gleeson
The Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies is calling for immediate legislation to outlaw insider dealing.

ever, still concerned that the proposed legislation may have the effect of inhibiting legitimate activities in some circumstances, and that the legislation should be reviewed in the light of its consequences in terms of "double" capital gains tax, clawback of stock rollover provisions and balance charges which would arise from the proposed changes.

The ECAC also argued, yesterday's meeting, for more frequent consolidation of legislation, that many

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Motoring

Garages say goodbye to the gallon

From the middle of next year, petrol retailers are to begin what is being called a "voluntary planned programme" of switching from gallons to litres. The change is expected to take two and a half years during which time motorists will have to deal with the two types of measure.

That could make for confusion, at least among the less mathematically agile, and the obvious question is why the change could not have been made all at once, as for instance happened with the introduction of decimal currency. The short answer is that successive governments have not been prepared to make the necessary order.

So for the last three years there has been the curious anomaly that while petrol is delivered to pumps, and invoiced, in litres, it is sold in gallons. The change at the wholesale stage was made in expectation of government action in the retail field which never came.

The decision to go metric now has been made not from any great enthusiasm for metrication as such but because of spiralling petrol prices. Many of the country's 100,000 pumps cannot show prices of more than 99p per gallon and have been forced, since the pound is a gallon barrier, to resort to half-price posting. But however well signposted, half-price posting—which means that the price you see ticking up on the pump has to be multiplied by two—has caused muddle and anger.

There is an even larger number of pumps that cannot show more than £1.39 a gallon and while this level of price, we must hope and pray, should be a few years off, it must eventually happen. So the Motor Agents' Association, which represents independent garages, decided to announce its support for metrication at the pumps and its lead was followed last week by the oil companies, who directly own many filling stations.

Changing 100,000 pumps will be a long and costly business. A conversion, where this is possible, can cost £150 to £200; where it is not, buying one of the latest electronic blender pumps can cost between £2,000 and £3,000. Some existing electronic pumps can be converted simply by pressing a button or cutting a wire, but others will need a new computer head.

Buying petrol in litres will not be a novel experience to any motorist who has driven on the Continent, and a few garages have already made the switch here. It is a question of being able to carry figures in the head—thinking of a

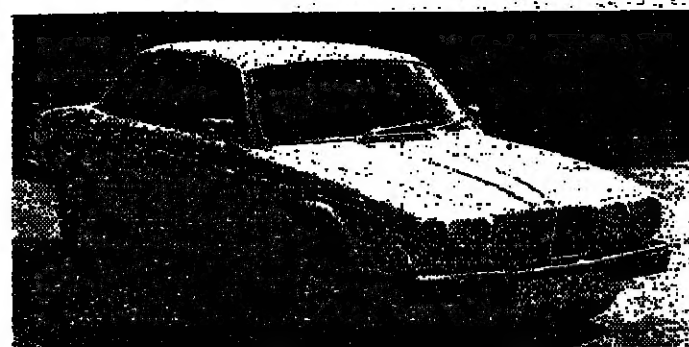
gallon as just under five litres, or a litre as roughly a fifth of a gallon. For a time prices are likely to be posted in both gallons and litres and the Metrication Board has prepared a couple of conversion charts for garages to display.

The change to litres will introduce another difficulty, how to express fuel consumption figures. The phrase "miles per gallon" will have to go and some alternative formula be found. The continental practice is to measure consumption the other way round, in litres per 100 kilometres. But until the British Government decides to introduce metric distances, which at the moment seems unlikely, such a measurement would be meaningless here.

Neither of the possible hybrids—miles per litre or litres per 100 miles—seems ideal but one or other will probably have to be adopted. At least the Department of Energy, which is responsible for publishing the official consumption figures on new cars, has nearly three years to come up with the answer, for the last pump is unlikely to be converted to litres before the end of 1982.

Road test: Daimler Double-Six

A week with a Daimler makes you realize how enjoyable motoring can be, even if it does cost a fortune in petrol. Everything about the car makes for relaxed driving from the almost silent engine to the exhilarating performance and superbly smooth ride. For the money, the 12 cylinder Daimler



The Daimler Double-Six—the essence of luxury motoring.

(and its Jaguar counterpart) is undoubtedly the finest car sold in Europe, probably in the world.

"For the money" is an important qualification. Certainly the similarly qualified German luxury cars—BMW and Mercedes—come nowhere near the Daimler/Jaguar on refinement and the Rolls-Royce, which does, is twice as expensive. The Rolls, of course, is in a class by itself but its unchallenged place at the pinnacle of the world car market has more to do with image and quality than with performance. The Daimler bears it on performance, handles probably better and is hardly inferior on comfort and noise level. But there are reservations on quality and reliability which show up only too clearly on the secondhand market. While a Rolls can actually appreciate in value, used Daimlers and Jaguars are often depressingly cheap.

This year the Daimler/Jaguar range underwent a series of minor

changes (which nevertheless cost £7m) designed to keep the car fresh until an entirely new model arrives in the 1980s. The roofline has been extended to give more rear headroom and a larger glass area and the parking lights are now contained in black, wrap-around bumpers. Electronic ignition has been introduced to provide more power—and better economy—for the six cylinder engine: the V12 continues as before.

It is the only "twelve" still made and if governments get nastier about thirsty cars its years could be numbered. But there is still time to luxuriate in its uncanny smoothness and ability to take the car from rest to 60 mph in less than seven seconds with hardly a murmur. Not that most of us drive that way but such acceleration is not just swank but a potential safety factor.

Similarly, a top speed approaching 140 mph is hardly relevant in

today's motoring conditions but it does mean that at our 70 mph speed limit the car is no more than gently coasting—still, smooth, still quiet and utterly relaxed. But a drive in a Daimler is not exactly compatible with energy conservation and even with the care limited production, a return of £1 to £5 mpg may not be officially tolerated much longer.

The Daimler's handling and ride seem often to be taken for granted. They should not be. This column has praised the ride quality of French models but here is a home-grown product that more than matches them, thanks to a shrewd mixture of springing and dampening which allows bumps to be absorbed without wallow and almost eliminates roll on corners. The roadholding of the wide tyres is well up to the car's performance.

The power steering can be criticised for lack of "feel" (and for the sizzling noise it makes on full lock). But the system is accurate enough and does take all effort away from the driver. With the fine General Motors automatic transmission and brakes that respond to the merest touch, the Daimler is just as much a vehicle for traffic jams as for the open road. If you have to be in London during the peak period, there are few more pleasant cars for the purpose.

Apart from its high fuel consumption, the main thing against the Daimler is its size, particularly in relation to interior space. A 16ft-plus body is a lot of car to park or to manoeuvre in traffic and yet tall rear seat passengers may still brush the roof. Also, the boot is

disappointingly shallow. But it is a magnificent car and able to carry its £16,417 price.

Parking by token

Electronic parking meters, the way. Prototypes are being tested by Westminster Council and if the results are full the new type of meter will be on the streets of London 1982.

Electronic meters offer advantages over the coin-operated clockwork models which, until now, Westminster Council has used in Europe 24 years. They work off coded tickets, an advance which means collectors having to carry large quantities of coin. Also, meters will probably require less maintenance.

Developed by GEC, the unit is operated by a plastic token, the size of a railway ticket, magnetically coded for a given unit, from 10 to 150 each, so many minutes of parking. Tokens would be sold in offices and libraries, shops, garages and public houses. Legislation to permit the electronic meters is being pushed through the Greater London Council's Transport Committee. The Greater London Council would initially receive 30 per cent of earnings from motorists from outside the zone who would not have an option to buy the tokens.

Peter Way

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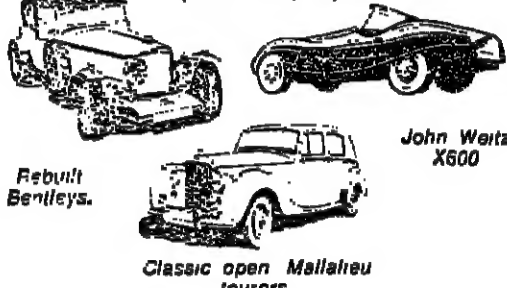
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